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FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT EDITION

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 134
Available from Wednesday,
April 21, 2010

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Tips and treatments to help you look good and feel even better – See inside



JAILER FEARS CHARGE AFTER INMATE'S DEATH

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ISSN 1753-1233



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LILYWHITES EYE DOUBLE

Faversham Town go in search of promotion to the Ryman League this evening with the visit of Corinthian to Salters Lane.

The Lilywhites need just a point from their final home game of the season to be crowned Kent League champions and if they win the title, it will be added to the Kent Senior Trophy they won on Sunday.

Town beat Greenwich Borough 2-1 in a tense final at Welling's Park View Road ground at the weekend to pick up their first piece of silverware in 20 years (pictured).

A bumper crowd is expected at this evening's game at Salters Lane, kick-off is at 7.45pm.

For the match report and reaction from the cup final, see sport.

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY JILL HURST

AN INQUEST into the death of a prisoner at HMP Elmley ground to a halt after a senior prison officer declined to give evidence unless he was guaranteed immunity from criminal proceedings.

Now into its third week the hearing into the death of William Duke on November 8, 2005, was adjourned on Monday (April 19), to give time for legal representatives to prepare a case for senior prison officer Mr R Woolacott.

Mr Woolacott is seeking a blanket amnesty from criminal proceedings which he claims could be pursued based on his answers to questions given in court. He was the senior officer in charge on the night of Mr Duke's death.

The 23-year-old remand prisoner, who lived on the Isle of Sheppey, died in the cell he shared with two other inmates.

The court heard how Mr Duke became ill, following the evening lockdown at 7.45pm, but was told he would have to wait until morning to see a doctor.

On the night of his death, Mr Duke is said to have complained to prison officers about shortness of breath, chest pain and having run out of asthma inhalers.

Jurors heard how the father of two had been urgently prescribed medications – including a non-stock Seretide inhaler – the day before his death but due to a shortage of staff the medical box, was never opened and Mr Duke did not receive the medication.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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yourlifestyle



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 It's survival of the richest as Jude is a repo man of a different kind
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NEWS EDITOR: Gareth Arnold 01303 817025

GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032

WEBSITE: www.yoursrale.co.uk

TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110

FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yoursale@kosmedia.co.uk, Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

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ELECTION 2010 Jill Hurst put four identical questions to each of the parliamentary candidates for Sittingbourne and Sheppey. Here are their responses

Candidates quizzed

HUGH ROBERTSON - Conservative

1. Build on the local economy and protect Faversham as a market town and the heart of the garden of England, continue to support schools, community groups and activities, support the cottage hospital, improve the train service and fight for broadband to enhance the rural economy.
2. I have a young family so try to get home as much as possible but during late votes I do stay in London overnight.
3. Election spend undisclosed. The maximum permitted spend is £12,037 but while I'm not sure how much we will spend it won't be anything near this amount. We have three leaflets and our aim is to reach the whole 150 square miles of the constituency.
4. If I am defeated Faversham will lose the considerable experience I have built up since being an MP. Having an MP in a high profile ministerial role is good for the area and puts the constituency on a good footing, nationally.



Hugh Robertson (Con)

THE QUESTIONS

1. What do you think are the five top priorities for Sittingbourne & Sheppey?
2. Do you plan to travel to London each day or will you purchase a second home?
3. What's your election budget and what have you spent it on?
4. What difference will it make if you are not elected?



Sarah Larkins (UKIP)



Tim Valentine (Green)



Ashok Rehal (Labour)

SARAH LARKINS - UKIP

1. Withdraw from the EU, hold public meetings and surgeries to address people's main concerns, be proactive in reducing crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour, revert to weekly rubbish collections and ensure local schools and health services are improved.
2. I will commute by train. During late votes I will stay in a standard bed and breakfast or hotel. There will be no second home for me.
3. Election spend less than £1,000. We will distribute about 5,000 leaflets.
4. Faversham will stagnate and become a forgotten town. Heavy goods traffic and urbanisation will eventually swallow up the mid Kent countryside and immigration will continue to rise.

don't receive any large donations so our funds come directly from supporters. We will deliver a leaflet to every home in the constituency for the first time but we are making extensive use of the web for campaigning.

4. It will be same old, same old because it doesn't matter if it's Conservative or Labour, the approach will take the same format. There won't be any equality policies, such as pay for women or part-time workers and cuts to public services will result in mass unemployment.

evenings and weekends. We will have distributed around 30000 to 35000 leaflets plus one that will go to every household in the constituency soon.

4. Faversham will have lost out on electing its first Labour MP for decades who is genuinely from the town and understands its needs.

DAVID NACHI - Liberal Democrat
 No response before going to press.

HAIRY NORMAN - The Monster Raving Loony Party

1. We believe the process of change should be abolished. Therefore we plan to introduce a 99 pence coin so people don't have to wait around for change. Abolish change.
2. We believe in conserving energy and reducing carbon emissions. Therefore I won't travel to London but will run the constituency from my sofa, thus producing minimal emissions.
3. The election entry fee - I won't be doing any canvassing - please refer to point two.
4. There will be no free Rock and Roll jiving lessons and defence may be put at risk because it won't be creosoted.

ASHOK REHAL - Labour

1. Sort out the economy, support small businesses including the future of Faversham creek, maintain Sure Start children's centres, safeguard affordable housing and improve the public transport system especially the rail service for commuters.
2. It will be a mix of commuting and staying in London. My expenses will be transparent and constituents will have every right to know what I have claimed.
3. Election spend undisclosed. Thousands of doors will have been knocked. I can't give you the exact figure, but we are out most

Health system 'seriously flawed'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Giving evidence in court on Monday, GP expert witness and clinical director at the Leeds cluster of prisons, Dr Nat Wright, said the health system at HMP Elmley appeared seriously flawed.

He said: "Deaths of inmates with asthma in remand prisons are extremely rare. I have worked at the Leeds cluster since 2003 and I can't recall a single death that was caused by asthma.

"The system [at HMP Elmley] was not acceptable so any care in that system was compromised. I would expect Mr Duke's medical history and medications to have been established when he arrived at the prison and recorded on his prison medical record sheet.

"Seretide should be dispensed on the same day it was prescribed and if it is not a stock item then a short-term alternative or provision should have been made on the same day.

"If a patient with asthma complains of breathlessness, of being short of breath and that his inhaler is not working, that should be one big red flag. That's a call for attendance. That's a blue light."

More than ten members of prison service staff are expected to be called to give evidence at the inquest with many ferried by mini-bus from the Isle of Sheppey to County Hall in Maidstone each day.

The hearing continues.

Street trader caught selling fake Bollinger

■ BY JILL HURST

IT WAS a scam Derek Trotter from Only Fools and Horses would have been proud of, but flogging cheap plonk as top-notch Champagne landed one dodgy dealer with a criminal record.

Market trader Swaley Taylor, of Louvain Road, Greenhithe, was found guilty of selling fake Bollinger Champagne in Sittingbourne High Street last December.

In reality, each bottle was filled with nothing more than cheap fizzy wine and labelled up as the good stuff.

The 45-year old pleaded guilty at Sittingbourne Court on Tuesday, April 12, to a view to gain with intent or cause loss to another, and without the consent offered or exposed goods bearing a sign identical to or likely to be mistaken for a registered trade mark, namely Bollinger on November 27, 2009.

Magistrates heard how Mr Taylor ferried the fake Bolly in the back of his transit van and then offered it to unwitting punters keen to stock up on booze in the run-up to Christmas.

He was caught out after one eagle-eyed member of the public became suspicious about the labelling and called the police. Before Taylor could say "drink up Trig, we're leaving", cops were at the scene.

Officers searched his van and confiscated 10 bottles of the imitation fizz, which they sent to Bollinger in London for laboratory testing.

Experts at the company quickly established



SCAMS: Neither Del Boy or Swaley Taylor had much luck selling fake goods... in Swaley's case, knock-off Bollinger

the product was not authentic and Mr Taylor was charged.

In his defence, Mr Taylor – who had no previous convictions – said he had no idea what he was selling because he could not read or write.

Magistrates fined him £300 and ordered him to pay £100 in costs. They also ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the fake wine.

Mr Taylor may now decide to stick to his usual stock of costume jewellery and china dolls.

Bollinger is a Champagne house, a producer of sparkling wines from the Champagne region of France. They produce several labels of Champagne under the Bollinger name, including the vintage Vieille Vignes Francaises, Grand Année and R.Da. as well as the non-vintage Special Cuvée.

In Britain their wines are affectionately known as Bolly, the favoured tipple of Joanna Lumley's inebriated fashionista Patsy in 90s comedy Absolutely Fabulous.

Pair charged with robbery at Co-op

TWO women have been charged following a brazen robbery at the Co-op in Church Road, Murston, on the evening of Saturday, April 10.

Samantha Windeatt and Amy Friar, both of Oak Road, Sittingbourne, were arrested by Kent Police on Wednesday, April 14.

Windeatt, aged 30, was charged with robbery, three counts of shoplifting and affray.

Friar, aged 23, was charged with robbery and three counts of shoplifting.

Both defendants appeared at Sittingbourne Magistrates court on Friday, April 16 where they were remanded in custody to appear at Maidstone Crown Court on May 7.

Check out traders

HOMEOWNERS have been warned to check the credentials of tradesmen after Swale council prosecuted an unlicensed waste carrier.

Peter Frank Martin, of Snowdon caravan site, Dover, was stopped by police in the district in October 2009.

He was found to be carrying dozens of fire extinguishers illegally in his vehicle.

Martin was charged carrying controlled waste without a licence. He was given a £1,000 fine and ordered to pay £100 in costs.

Soldier to be buried with military honours

FUNERAL arrangements for fallen Sheppey soldier Rifleman Daniel Holkham have been confirmed.

Rifleman Holkham, pictured, will be laid to rest with full military honours at All Saints' Church, Eastchurch, at noon on St Georges Day – Friday, April 23.

Rifleman Holkham, 19, died after a bomber detonated his explosive device in Helmand province on Saturday, March 27. His actions are thought to have saved the lives of civilians and fellow soldiers.

The young rifleman served in 3 RIFLES Battle Group with younger brother Andrew and elder brother Matthew. They are expected to accompany their parents, Tracy and Rodney Holkham.

Kent Police are planning several road closures for the funeral. Police motorcycles will escort the hearse from the funeral directors, G. Hogben and Sons, in Hope Street, Sheerness, to the church via the Holkham family home.

The following roads will be closed from about 11.30am: High Street eastbound close to Dicksons Walk. Warden Road south of its junction with Plough Road. Diversions will be set up along Plough Road and Warden Road.



There will be another secondary road closure in place in Warden Road close to Eastchurch Primary School. High Street will be closed to the east side of the pedestrian crossing. Church Road will be closed just south of the war memorial.

Traffic officer for Swale, PC Warren Jarvis, said: "We are aware that this is a very densely populated area in which many businesses also operate, and we considered all options carefully before deciding to implement these road closures.

"We hope the traffic plan we have put in place will keep disruption to a minimum, but ask everyone to be patient because there will inevitably be some hold-ups."

The roads are expected to re-open by 2pm.

Ban for drugged driver after he's spotted by cops

A STONED motorist who was spotted joining the A2 without giving way was prosecuted at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on Tuesday, April 13.

Police followed Mark Keat, of Portland Avenue, Sittingbourne, after they saw his Ford Fiesta joining a busy carriage-way of the A2 without giving way to oncoming traffic.

The 24-year-old failed to respond to the police's request for him to pull over, despite their siren and flashing light.

The ventilation worker eventually stopped after reaching a dead end in Lawrence Close. Officers described Keat as smelling of cannabis, and having with enlarged pupils. He later tested positive for the Class B drug.

In court Keat, who pleaded guilty to driving his Ford Fiesta while unfit to drive though drugs – claimed he smoked one joint a day to help him sleep.

He was fined £275 and ordered to pay £100 in costs. He was also banned from driving for 15 months.

Assault suspect skips court date

MAGISTRATES issued a warrant for the arrest of a Faversham man, charged with assault, after he failed to turn up to a court hearing on Tuesday, April 13.

Matthew Steven Oliviere, 20, of Lower Road, was due to stand trial at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court charged with assaulting Jake Bosewell by beating.

Anyone with information should contact Faversham police station on 01795 477055.

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BAD SIGN: Conservative candidate Gordon Henderson with vandalised poster in Rodmersham

Vandalism 'attack on our democracy'

A ROW has broken out after a Swale parliamentary hopeful implicated his opponents in the destruction of two election signs.

Candidates across the political spectrum attacked Tory Gordon Henderson's claims, accusing him of underhand tactics designed to grab attention.

Swale's council's Labour group leader, Cllr Roger Truelove, called on Mr Henderson to calm down and play fair.

He said: "I'm very sorry Mr Henderson's signs have been damaged, but we resent any suggestion, explicit or implicit, that we are in any way implicated.

"The simple fact is we don't care about Mr Henderson's signs and I doubt any of the other candidates do either. Whatever the cause of vandalism I suggest he calms down, puts the signs back up and gets on with the job in hand in a fair and grown up way."

UKIP candidate Ian Davison echoed Mr Truelove's sentiments: "It's foolish to even suggest the possibility that one of the candidates or their supporters would have any knowledge of this. It's ridiculous and sounds like a stunt to me. We don't want anything to do with it."

Liberal Democrat Keith Nevols said: "It's certainly nothing to do with us. I suspect petty vandalism. If Mr Henderson truly believes the vandalism was caused by a political party then

■ BY JILL HURST

he should arrange an honest, fair and open debate about it."

Two of a collection of about 20 signs, placed throughout the district to publicise the Conservative Party, were destroyed at the bottom of Stockers Hill, Rodmersham. Mr Henderson said each sign cost about £45 to produce and erect.

He said: "I don't know whether the destruction of my signs is part of a wider dirty tricks campaign or the result of mindless vandalism.

"If this was a political act I would be surprised if any of the rival candidates themselves were involved.

"However, I very much hope they will take this opportunity to issue a stern warning to their more exuberant supporters that vandalising the posters of opponents is a criminal offence and has no place in a democracy.

"Of course, it could be simply mindless vandalism, which in itself is a sad reflection of the levels of anti-social behaviour that blight some of our communities."

Whatever the outcome it looks unlikely to have anything to do with Monster Raving Loony Party candidate, Mad Mike Young.

He said: "I can promise you it wasn't me. I'm running a low-energy campaign, aiming for zero carbon emissions, so I haven't left the sofa."

United in service of island faithful

BISHOP of Dover the Rt Rev Trevor Willmot presided over a service to establish a new type of ministry on the Isle of Sheppey.

Described by the Bishop as a remarkable step for the community, the service saw the Rev Canon Arthur Houston licensed as the new priest-in-charge for Minster, and other licenses issued.

More than 100 people attended the service, including Mayor of Swale Cllr Adrian Crowther and Mayoress Pamela Berry.

Fifteen licenses were issued in all, which will enable priests on the island to work as assistants in other parishes.

Describing Canon Houston as hugely gifted and experienced, the Bishop asked the community to work together.

He added: "Don't be tempted to look to Arthur for all the answers. Together you will find them. This is about working together to serve the island."

Canon Houston voiced delight at his welcome. "I am looking forward to working closely with you all," he said.



WELCOME: Bishop of Dover with Canon Houston

yoursrale NEWS IN BRIEF

Dog mess action on Leas

POLICE are targeting dog walkers in Minster who fail to clean up after their pets.

PC Steve King and PCSOs Rob Holmes and Kyle Bryson have been carrying out early patrols along The Leas to make sure dog walkers don't leave the streets in a mess.

Those caught leaving dog mess behind will be issued with £80 fixed penalty notices.

PC Bryson said: "We've been targeting dog fouling since the beginning of March, changing our shift patterns so we can be on The Leas when the dog walkers are out and about.

"We decided to tackle the problem because it was the one concern that residents all mentioned at our police surgery in Minster and I'm glad to say we have really noticed a difference.

"People are finally getting the message that they must clean up after their dogs."

Sugar boost proves costly

A MAN convicted of stealing chocolate and two cans of energy drink from a Faversham supermarket told the court he was desperate for a sugar fix.

Christian Alexander Bell, 25, of Aylesford Crescent, Gillingham, pleaded guilty to stealing two cans of Red Bull and a Galaxy, worth £3.99, at Tesco on March 29.

He told Sittingbourne magistrates he was short of money after helping his father pay a debt and needed a quick fix.

Bell was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £85.

Crimewatch Rav's stalker

A TV presenter who attended Fulston Manor School in Sittingbourne was the victim of an internet stalking campaign, a court heard.

Toneeta Beckford was found guilty of harassing Crimewatch presenter Rav Wilding, who was educated in the town.

On April 8, Warley Magistrates' Court, West Midlands, heard how 24-year-old Beckford left abusive messages on Mr Wilding's social networking pages on Facebook and Twitter.

Beckford, who lives in the West Midlands, will be sentenced on April 30.

She was released on bail on condition she makes no attempt to contact Mr Wilding.

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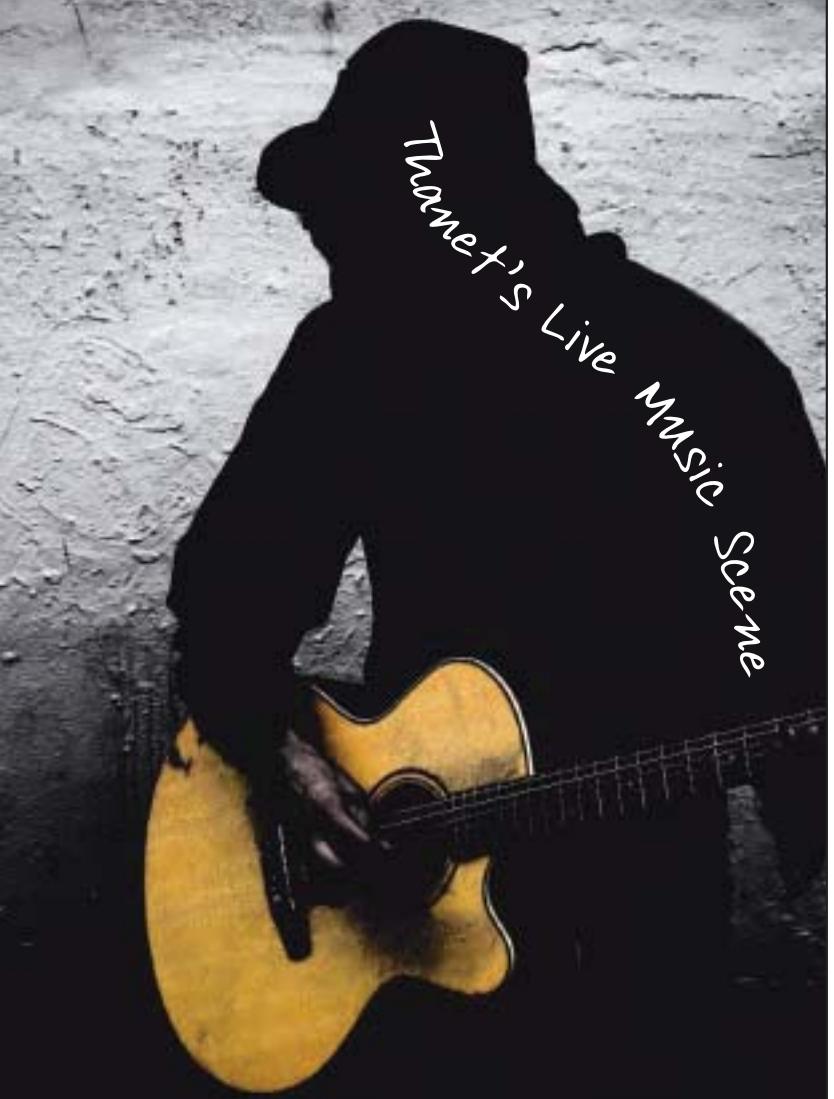

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Anxious wait for mum-to-be hit by car on crossing

A PREGNANT woman faces an agonising wait to find out if her baby has escaped injury after a hit-and-run driver knocked them down last week.

Cherise Bowerman was using a pedestrian crossing at about 5.15pm on Monday, March 12 when a car travelling from the direction of Cowstead Corner hit her and drove off along Queenborough Road towards Halfway.

Police have launched an appeal for the motorist, who was driving a bright red new model Ford Focus with lights either side of the back windscreen.

Ms Bowerman, who lives with her parents in Halfway, said she was frightened for her life during the incident, which left her injured and shocked.

"The car just carried on driving as I lay on the floor. All I could think about was my baby. If I had been a child I'd have had no chance."

"I managed to get myself to the garage across the road where the assistant called my dad and the emergency services."

The 20-year-old suffered bruising to her stom-

ach, knee and upper arm as a result of the collision. She now has an agonising wait to rule out any long-term problems to her unborn infant.

"I've seen the midwife and though she can hear the heartbeat of my little girl she could not definitely tell me if everything is ok. I've already thought of names, Caitlan or Rosalea. I'd be devastated if anything happens to her."

The midwife can't confirm all is well until my next ultrasound on May 14, so I'm going to have an anxious few weeks to wait.

"I still can't believe it's happened to me. How could anyone do that at all, let alone to a pregnant woman? How would they feel if that was their daughter, sister, or mother? It's a disgrace."

"What made it worse is that a second car went through the crossing while I was lying on the floor. I looked into the driver's face and she just ignored me."

Detective Chief Inspector of Swale Borough, Nick Gossett said: "This incident occurred in rush hour and therefore we are appealing for



WORRIED: Pregnant Cherise Bowerman was left lying in the road after being hit by a driver who left the scene

anyone who may have witnessed this collision.

"In particular we would like to speak to the female driver of a silver Volvo saloon who is thought to have stopped at the traffic lights during this collision and may be able to help further."

Anyone with information is asked to contact 01795 419182 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Mosquitoes on marsh 'could spread malaria'

MOSQUITOES found in the marshes around Swale could trigger an outbreak of malaria when holidaymakers unknowingly bring parasites home from the tropics.

Although experts say the risk is low, a groundbreaking study, one of the first since malaria was eradicated from the UK in the 1950s, is being undertaken to create control strategies against potentially dangerous mosquitoes.

Dr Yvonne-Marie Linton, a researcher from the Natural History Museum, has been working in the Cliffe Marshes on the Isle of Grain in Medway, where a specific type of the insect is found.

The anopheles daciae is one of 70 of the species capable of transmitting malaria.

After the Second World War, this species caused the spread of the disease within schools in the county, after they bit homebound soldiers who were carrying the malarial parasite.

Dr Linton said: "By knowing the enemy and where they breed, targeted mosquito control strategies can be deployed against only those potentially dangerous mosquitoes," she said.

Malaria, which affects about 500 million people worldwide each year and kills two million, was eliminated completely from the UK after the World Health Organisation launched the Global Malaria Eradication Programme in 1955.

In Africa, however, the disease remains a massive problem, with one child dying from it every 30 seconds.

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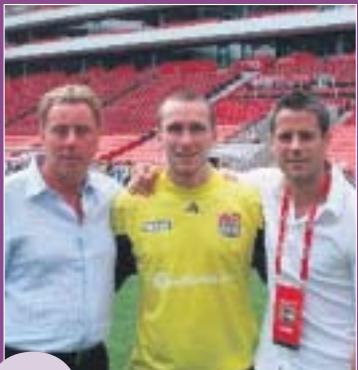


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QUESTION & ANSWER

SCOTT CHALMERS-STEVENS



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Q & A

The head goalkeeper at Soccer Elite FA talks to **Jill Hurst** about his job and how the coaching academy has helped more than 30 youngsters get signed by professional football clubs over the last three years

Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I'm head goalkeeper and schools coordinator for Soccer Elite FA. I have worked for the academy for nearly three years and visited more than 30 schools across the county, delivering football sessions. I have also played semi-pro football for Margate, Dover Athletic and Ashford Town.

Before that I was playing professionally for Watford, Rushden & Diamonds and Mansfield Town. After I was released from the professional game I signed with non-league Margate, playing part-time, and started coaching using qualifications obtained at Watford. Within a few months I linked up with Soccer Elite.

Q What is Soccer Elite FA?

A Soccer Elite has three academies, based in Maidstone, Kings Hill and Sittingbourne. They are designed to nurture and fulfil the sporting ambitions young people.

We have a solid set of contacts within the Premier League, Football League and semi-professional game, so we can provide realistic opportunities to further those who dream of dedicating themselves to a football career.

Our training sessions are open to boys and girls of all abilities. Whether you want to play in the Premiership or get into your school team, the success of the coaching methods at

Soccer Elite FA will be noticeable after just a few sessions. Soccer Elite FA runs an invite-only advanced academy where talented and committed players have the opportunity to play friendly matches against professional opposition such as Arsenal, Chelsea, West Ham United, Crystal Palace and Gillingham to name a few. Over the last three years 30 of our members have signed professional academy forms. It is our ambition to produce stars of the future.

Q You have a goalkeeper academy in Swale

A We have more than 60 goalkeepers from around the county which is fantastic, as keepers often get neglected and don't receive the attention and specific training they need.

We have seen three keepers from our academy signed by pro clubs in the last year, with more on trial with clubs such as Chelsea, Fulham, Crystal Palace, Gillingham, Wycombe Wanderers, as well as non-league clubs.

A programme has been put together to boost the skills and techniques required to enable goalkeepers to progress through the academy system. Specialist sessions run from Ashford, Sittingbourne and Chatham.

Q How do you get youngsters placed with professional teams?

A We have seen 30 players sign for teams such as Arsenal and Chelsea after impressing

ing in game situations for our academy.

Q Not all will be good enough for a national club, but may still want to be involved in the game. What can they do?

A We run a variety of sessions for all ages and abilities. Whatever your aim, players can still come and train with our development centres and come to our Soccer Schools in school holidays.

Q What's the best bit about your job and the most challenging?

A I don't want to sound clichéd, but I love everything about my job. It's rewarding to see players who work hard making progress, whatever level they're at. It's a joy to watch our footballers and goalkeepers play against professional sides and represent our academy. They always give a good account of themselves.

Q What are our chances in the World Cup Finals? Which player do you have your eye on?

A It's going to be interesting this year. If we can keep the squad fit – especially Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney – we'll be in with a chance.

Q Which teams do you have your eye on?

A Brazil and Spain are always a pleasure to watch. And England, of course.

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Recession bites for organic producers

FARMERS in Kent have confirmed the findings of a report showing a sharp decline in demand for organic foods.

As recession continues to bite, the Soil Association's organic market report found sales of organic food, drink and other products fell by almost 13 per cent last year.

Producers are finding consumers are shying away from organically grown products because they tend to be more expensive.

With all the belt-tightening going on, organic farmers in Kent are feeling those effects too.

Alan Brockman helps run Perry Court Farm at Petham, near Canterbury. He said they used to supply a couple of dozens restaurants, but many have gone out of business.

Survive

Mr Brockman, a partner in the company, said: "We've had very difficult times because of a lot of bad debts."

"That hasn't helped at all. It's all part of this recession. You need good credit ratings to survive these days. We've had to contract quite a lot."

Gerry Minister has run Luddesdown Organic Farm since 1986 and was one of the movement's pioneers.

He said: "People do think organic foods are more expensive and at one time they were. But these days there's very little between them, so cost really isn't that big an issue."

"It's true the price does appear very different by the time the products reach the supermarket shelves. If people were to come to our farm shop they would find the prices are almost the same."

Price lays down grudge match gauntlet

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY JILL HURST

THE competition is proving to be electric in the run-up to the Isle of Sheppey's major sailing event of the year.

More than 40 yachts are expected to take part in the Swale Regatta, from Friday to Sunday, June 11-13.

Queenborough Yacht Club member John Drop took first place last time and this year's match is promising to keep us on the edge of our seats as Mr Drop's opponents ready themselves to strip him of his title.

Dave Price was hotly tipped to win the competition last year but came in a disappointing third. He returns, determined to avenge his defeat – aboard his 32ft Sadler yacht, Blue Chip – and has firmly laid down the gauntlet.

"They put such a handicap on me last year

that even if I'd left two days before the race started I couldn't have won," said Mr Price.

"Not only that but the wind died and John Drop put up a monster of a spinnaker, which didn't help matters."

"I won't be making the same mistake this year. I'm ready for it. He doesn't stand a chance. Bring it on."

The race runs around the coast of Sheppey with teams from Queenborough Yacht Club, Conyer Cruising Club, Sittingbourne Yacht Club, Hollowshore Cruising Club in Faversham, Whitstable Yacht Club and Whitstable Cruising Club expected to take part.

Battling

Mr Drop is battling just to keep a place in the competition and race his French-made 4800 Dufour cruiser, True Spirit.

Having entered into the Fastnet offshore competition – due to take place in 2011 – it is still touch and go whether he will reach Swale in time to take part.

Mr Drop said: "I'm going to do my best to get back in time. I have to get to Falmouth and back



JUNE SHOWDOWN: The pre-event banter between competitors has put extra wind in the sails of Swale Regatta

to complete my 500th entry mile for the Fastnet challenge, but my aim is still to compete.

"This is a grudge match and I'm back to reclaim my title. I'm not called John 'First' Drop for nothing."

Whatever the outcome, both men can breathe easy in the knowledge key competitor and skipper of The Sorcerer will not be racing. Paul Wallace says his sailing counterparts have had a lucky escape.

"Sadly, I can't do that weekend as I'm exhibiting in Birmingham, but at least it means the old boys will have a chance on the day. I'd keep my eye on The Bullet and First Knight."

Who will win? We can't predict. But this is certain to be one Isle of Sheppey event that shouldn't be missed.

To find out more about this year's Swale Regatta, contact Queenborough Yacht Club at 7 High Street, Queenborough ME11 5AA or visit www.queenboroughyc.co.uk.



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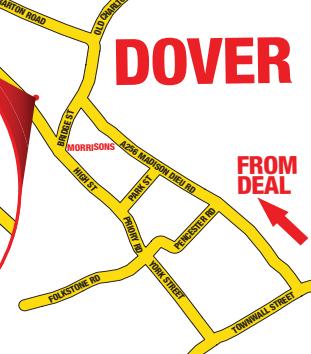
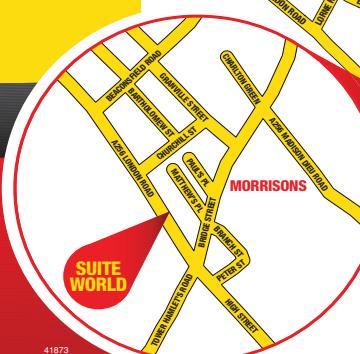
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ELECTION 2010

Jill Hurst looks at the candidates vying for your vote in our area on May 6

SITTINGBOURNE AND SHEPPEY

Labour - Angela Harrison

Statistics: 2005 election: Incumbent MP Derek Wyatt. Won 41.8 per cent of the vote (17,051 votes).

Candidate political history: Lived all her life in the constituency where she is a borough councillor, representing Sheerness West ward since 1983. Leader of Swale Labour Party since 1996. Leader of the opposition at Swale council. County councillor from 2005-09. Selected as parliamentary candidate November, 2009.

Political priorities: Fight against cuts to public spending to safeguard jobs; work with the NHS and GPs to improve health provisions; safeguard education for the less affluent; tackle lack of affordable housing in the district; safeguard winter fuel allowances for older citizens with free bus passes and TV licences.

Sound bite: "I do not want to be an MP – I want to be the MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey."

**Conservative - Gordon Henderson**

Statistics: 2005 election: 41.6 per cent of the vote (16,972 votes).

Candidate political history: He is a fully qualified Conservative Party politi-



FAVERSHAM AND MID KENT

Conservative - Hugh Robertson

Statistics: 2005 election: Won with 49.7 per cent of the vote (21,690 votes).

Candidate political history: Has held the seat since 2001.

He has been shadow junior culture, media and sports minister and shadow minister for the Olympics.

Background: Has a degree in Land Management. Army officer until 1995 and then a banker.

Political priorities

Preserving Faversham's place as a market town; protect the green belt; support the cottage hospital; improve the train service; fight for the rural economy.

**Labour - Ashok Rehal**

Statistics: 2005 election: Candidate Andrew Bradstock lost with 29.7 per cent of the vote (12,970 votes).

Candidate political history: Involved in grass roots politics. He is branch secretary of the Faversham Labour Party.

Background: Has a university masters degree in educational psychology. Works as an educational psychologist and running his own consultancy for 25 years.

Political priorities: Affordable housing; better rail services and improvement of the high speed service; more Sure Start children's centres.

Liberal Democrats -David Naghi

Statistics: 2005 election: Lost with 16.5 per cent of the poll (7,204 votes).

Candidate political history: Maidstone borough councillor and chairman of the Lib

cal agent and at one time was the constituency agent for Thanet North MP Roger Gale. Held a number of elected posts in local government including twice deputy leader of Swale council and a county councillor, during which time he sat both on the education committee and Kent Police Authority. Lost to Derek Wyatt, by 79 votes, in 2005. Political priorities: Tackle anti-social behaviour; better access for local people to NHS dentists, fair immigration system; restoration of all powers from Europe to Parliament; protect local jobs, a better deal for pensioners.

Sound bite: "Above all else, it's about who do you trust to represent you on a local basis in Parliament?"

Liberal Democrats - Keith Nevols

Statistics: 2005 election: Candidate Jane Nelson. 12.7 per cent of the vote (5,183 votes).

Candidate political history: The local government manager from Milton Regis was the only Liberal Democrat candidate who applied to be the parliamentary candidate. While he has never held public office he stood for post of councillor in county elections last year and has been involved in grass roots politics since the 1980s. Political priorities: Tackle the prices on the high-speed train service to London; scrutinise plans for more waste incinerators in



Dems' Faversham and Mid Kent branch. Background: Educated at Vinters Boys' School. Works as a self-employed builder. Political priorities: Improved youth and sports services together; safeguard front line services at Maidstone Hospital.

The Green Party - Tim Valentine

Statistics: 2005 election: Did not stand.

Candidate political history: Actively involved in environmental campaigns for – gave oral evidence to the House of Commons Environment Select Committee in 1996. Background: PhD in Psychology. Professor in psychology at a London university.

Political priorities: Affordable homes; improved public transport system; creating fuel security through efficiency and renewable energy.

**UKIP - Sarah Larkins**

Statistics: 2005 election: Candidate Robert Thompson lost with 2.6 per cent of the vote (1,152 votes).

Candidate political history: Actively involved in grass roots politics. Came second in county council elections during 2009.

Background: Trained radiographer. Works as a full-time senior hospital radiographer. Political priorities: Protect the green belt; reduce traffic and tax foreign road users; reinstate weekly refuse collections.

Official Monster Raving Loony Party - Norman Davison

Statistics: 2005 election: Lost with 1.4 per cent of the votes (610 votes).

Candidate political history: Actively involved in formulating loony policies. Political priorities: Make school desks smaller and put more in classrooms so class sizes appear smaller. Make people queue sideways in the Job Centre so the number of unemployed appears less.



the area; move the regeneration plans on in Sittingbourne.

Sound bite: "We stand for an open and transparent society, where the people rule the politicians, instead of the other way round."

UKIP - Ian Davison

Statistics: 2005 election: Candidate Stephen Dean. 2.3 per cent of the vote (926 votes).

Candidate political history: No political background – formed the Sheppey and Sittingbourne branch of UKIP in September, 2009.

Political priorities: 24-hour A&E and police station on the Isle of Sheppey; free parking throughout



Swale; introduction of another grammar school.

Soundbite: "I do not want our future being decided by unelected politicians in Brussels."

Official Monster Raving Loony Party - Mad Mike Young

Statistics: 2005 election: 1.2 per cent of the votes (479 votes).

Candidate political history: Actively involved in formulating loony policies. Political priorities: Ask people to stand side-by-side in the Job Centre so the number of unemployed people appears to be less.

Soundbite: "Introduce smile clinics to the NHS. You always feel better with a smile on your face."

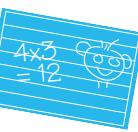


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BREAK TIME

Pupils' success in French wins praise

THE question *Parlez-vous Francais?* was met with a resounding yes by two Sittingbourne students who passed their AS level French in just six months.

Sittingbourne Community College school girls Sophie Tucker and Chelsea Wright are now on target to pass at A2 level in just one year.

French teacher Ann Turk said: "The students both have very good knowledge of the language in general and are particularly good at grammar. Chelsea achieved an A grade and Sophie got a B. They both achieved an A at speaking and are now following the programme at AS level. They are very hard working students and intend to go to university."

Head teacher Alan Barham added: "We applaud the efforts of these two students and their teaching staff in achieving these results."

To find out more about Sittingbourne Community College visit www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk or call 01795 472449.

Children spring into action over holiday

SCHOOL children from across the district had a great time over Easter thanks to Swale council's Spring Loaded programme.

Youngsters took part in a range of activities including drama, judo, rugby and clay-modelling, cooking and cricket. To find out about planned activities visit www.swale.gov.uk or telephone 01795 417600.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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Paralympic champ boosts inspirational sports scheme

■ BY JILL HURST

TEACHING staff in Faversham discovered a winning formula to get pupils more interested in sport when they invited an Olympic champion to their school.

Paralympic rugby champion Steve Brown visited The Abbey School as part of his mentoring role for the Sky Living Sports Programme.

The scheme is designed to build on youngster's self-esteem and personal development using sporting activities as the core. With Steve's help, teenage girls who attend the school developed their sports leadership by teaching primary school children PE.

The teenage girls were asked to come up with a curriculum for the younger kids, who weren't disappointed, taking part in wall climbing, ten pin bowling and the community fitness suite.

In recognition of their achievement the teenagers were each awarded with a certificate, medal and T-shirt.

One parent praised the programme, saying it had inspired her daughter to get involved in sport.

She said: "This programme has inspired my daughter. Her attitude towards PE has increased beyond recognition."

Steve Brown is no stranger to leading the pack, having represented team GB in countless international and national rugby wheelchair competitions.

He lists his top sporting memory as when he



MOTIVATOR: Rugby champion Steve Brown with young sports leaders at the Abbey School, in Faversham

led the Olympic and Paralympic parade through the streets of London following the team's success in Beijing, China, in 2008.

Steve said: "Growing up as an average student who loved sport, I faced all the usual problems that childhood and adolescence had to offer.

"Then, at the age of 24, I was involved in an accident that turned my world upside down and made me think about what is really important in life.

"The spinal cord injury changed my life for

ever, leaving me unable to walk but with a hunger to achieve bigger than ever".

Steve, who plays for the London Wheelchair Rugby Club, was part of the club side which won the Europa Cup in 2007 as well as the GB side that won the Astra-tech Cup in Germany in 2008. The 27-year-old Kent athlete is hotly tipped as one to watch for the London Olympics in 2012.

To find out more about The Abbey School visit <http://vle.abbey.kent.sch.uk> or telephone 01795 532 633.

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Page 45





£1,000,000



REFURBISHMENT SALE

1000'S VISIT LENLEYS, CANTERBURY'S PREMIER FURNITURE STORE

Crowds have flocked in their hundreds to the first day of the Lenleys £1,000,000 refurbishment Sale in Canterbury to snap up the bargains on sale. Over five thousand people, enticed by the thought of quality furniture at once in a lifetime prices, went through the doors of the family furnishing store.

"The response from our customers has been amazing", said Managing Director Jonathan Watts. "We knew that we would be busy, but the first day was beyond our wildest dreams. Our customers were delightful, showing a lot of patience as well as good humour. I

think that all in all, they went home happy and many with a super bargain." The business, founded in 1936, will soon embark on a renovation of their store, which will include a new frontage, new displays and a landscaped car park. To make space for the contractors in anticipation of the work, Lenleys are selling off many displays and surplus stock.

The sale is about to finish shortly and Jonathan Watts added, "I would encourage a visit as soon as possible to see quality furniture at fantastic prices, as the stock is going fast."



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Derwent Aylesbury large sofa and two armchairs. Limited quantity.
Was £4149 Now £2288

Hornbeam extending oak table with 4 leather padded chairs. Limited quantity.
Was £1388 Now £798

150cm Dunlopillo 'Diamond' 4 drawer sprung-edge divan set. One only.
Was £1949 Now £1169

SALE RESUMES THURSDAY AT 9.30AM

your letters

YOUR LETTERS

Scrapage time for Gordon's used motor

I can't understand the mentality of anyone even considering voting anything other than Conservative at the General Election.

Suppose you bought a new car from the only garage in town and over the years, in spite of being serviced regularly by this garage, it had got worse and worse until it was barely running at all.

Then, all of a sudden, a new garage opens for business. Do you stick with the original garage, responding to the owner's plea of "Give us a second chance, we'll put it right. But we'll use the same mechanics and we haven't any new machines".

Or do you go to the new guys and put your trust in the new team and new machines? There really is no room for discussion at the end of the day, is there?

Comment on www.kentnews.co.uk, by Alistair

Of cronies, quangos and pointless parties

There's little point in getting involved in the closed shop of modern party politics. The hysterical aggression of an adversarial system is a front that suits the participants.

Anyone who wants a quiet life keeps their head down while there is mayhem all around.

I stood as an Independent for my local council and did the door-knocking. A woman who knew me lived in a cottage near the river.

Her street is overshadowed and surrounded by tower blocks and rough housing estates.

She voted for me but told me I would never get in; there were too many economically dependent non-workers and "unknowns" in the tower blocks who would keep Labour in, or vote Tory as a protest in a town that had a proud heritage, with its own industries, character and three cinemas in the good old days. All gone and unrecognisable now, vanished under Tory control.

Remember the Tories' citizens' charter and Local Agenda 21? All lip-service and hypocrisy to lull the gullible. In reality, neglect and decay laid waste to town centres, industries died with nothing to replace them and now mass unemployment, thanks to the EU's open door.

Who really believes in democracy any more? We have sunk into a pit of bureaucracy where former public service managers can set their own level of salaries and bonuses, while expecting front line service to be done on minimum or low wages.

I challenge all political parties to get rid of inappropriate corporate director and chief executive roles and perks.

We must have a clear definition of public service and not pretend they are anything except monopolies and cartels. As for Tory PR and

yourblogger

Gary Wright feels the many police TV reality shows mete out the wrong message to criminals

I'M A bit of a reluctant addict for the many fly-on-the-wall cop shows pumped out and repeated by satellite TV stations.

You've been there: flicking through the stations trying to find something to watch and you alight upon a car chase through a council estate, filmed from the front grille of a police car. Brilliant.

There are loads: Sky Cops, Police Stop!, Traffic Cops, Police Camera Action!... the list goes on and on.

They are really cheap to make and sadly police forces across Britain must be queuing up to get the free publicity that goes with these reality shows.

For real danger the producers often need to drop in some footage from the USA where a driver is just as likely to step out of the car unloading his 9mm pistol.

Back in the UK, Sgt Sid Nobody gets a hunch that there's something not quite right with the driver of the battered old Nissan Micra with multi-coloured doors and treadless tyres.

And look, tin foil on the floor, 'drug paraphernalia' our expert sergeant assures the viewer.

Sure enough the painfully thin driver, with pupils the size of two pence pieces and a face littered with acne, turns out to be a heroin addict. He gets nicked.

A job well done then boys... But is it?

Answer, no. Most of these petty criminals or unfortunates seem to receive a ridiculously light sentence.

In another show I watched one young fella lead chasing police a merry dance in his mum's car

running off the road and with sparks coming off the wheels and he took a while to catch. He was banned and received a community service order.

I watched another oil chased on the motorway for refusing to pull over.

He pulled a couple of – in my opinion – quite stylish driving stunts as he attempted to give FOUR police cars the slip only to be caught eventually. He was already banned, so he got a fine and extension – but no prison term.

These people should be locked up. Of course, the programmes have no time to research the court case and give background because the commentator has to move onto the next "amazing" footage.

The police involved seem to take themselves far too seriously and the 'criminals' they catch are mostly low-life trash who today's society seem to believe need a second, third and fourth chance before they see the inside of a prison cell.

No, these TV cops need to catch some real criminals, proper bad people doing terrible things then forced to face the full wrath of the law.

Imagine how Police Stop! would have handled the arrest of the pet shop owner who sold a goldfish to a 15-year-old boy – she was fined £1,000 and is electronically tagged as well. That's punishment.

Or the experienced, fully taxed and insured, biker doing 122mph who was jailed for six months and banned from driving. See there's justice.

Telly blokes take note. Politicians, let's get some reality in our legal system (and ban police from reality shows).

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, Gareth Arnold, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

soundbites, Kent County Council pays its heads of service far more than they are worth.

They can afford executives, health helplines, internet TV channels, websites, internal newspapers etc, but nothing of real value or good value for money. All the while bashing the motorist with parking charges as potholes get worse every year.

Consumer protection, health and safety, public transport – all seem to be run for the convenience of bosses, committees and boards. Jobs for cronies and associates from every quango mean extra layers of bureaucracy that include legal, set-up and salary costs.

What use they are to taxpayers is debatable, but every party relies on the extra three million non-jobs created in the last two decades.

They are laughing all the way to the bank, on our money. What happens when workers, through no fault of their own, become job-seekers on the lowest benefits, with bailiffs and banks breathing down their necks and only a pittance to live on?

Will debtor prisons reappear?

Comment on www.kentnews.co.uk, by Rita Grootendorst

Our database state

The General Election focus seems to be on the economy, which may be the deciding factor for many votes. Other subjects at risk of being sidelined include ID cards and the related database projects.



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EMAIL: Email your letters to us at yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk



Turn out the lights

Eight out of ten people (83 per cent) taking part in a survey by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) have their view of the night sky affected by light pollution.

Of those, almost half (50 per cent) said their sleep had been disrupted by excess artificial lighting. CPRE and the British Astronomical Association's Campaign for Dark Skies (CfDS) are calling on councils, businesses and individuals to take steps to cut light pollution.

We also reiterate our call for the Government to introduce long-awaited planning guidance to control lighting.

Light pollution has become a growing problem with more and more of the UK left without a clear view of the night sky. From 1993 to 2000, light pollution in England increased by a quarter (26 per cent) and the amount of light-saturated night sky rose to seven per cent. Councils spend £532 million on street lighting each year and the lights can account for five to ten per cent of a council's carbon emissions.

Light pollution is a waste and detracts from the natural beauty of the night sky. The cost of not acting are clear: unnecessarily high energy bills for councils and taxpayers, more carbon emissions, disrupted sleeping patterns, disturbance to wildlife, and a night sky bereft of the majesty of the Milky Way.

Government needs to stop dragging its feet and take action, before many of us lose our experience of dark nights for good.

Emma Marrington, CPRE

Many thanks, Derek

Derek Wyatt's great contribution to the Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency was to reverse the trend of 30 years of under-investment by steering in more than £250 million of public money.

In pursuing the interests of the constituency he was persistent and determined in chasing ministers and civil servants. Derek's other great asset as an MP was that he was right for a highly marginal seat. In an area of such clearly demarcated political opinion, it is important to have an MP who is not too partisan. In many ways, Derek was as much at ease with Tory folk as he was with Labour members and voters.

He fought everyone's cause, even in the more Conservative parts of the constituency. He has left his mark and now it's important to build on the investment locally.

Roger Truelove, Sittingbourne

Vulnerable charities

Britain's economy has thankfully returned to modest growth, but for many charitable organisations funding is still in perilous decline.

Government has predicted that charities could lose 25 per cent of their funding in 2010 and the Charities Aid Foundation is reporting that four out of ten charities are already operating on less income than they budgeted for.

The Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI) was created to give small charities the strategic support they need to stay open. Both Labour and the Conservatives have made it clear they see an increased role for charitable organisations in future.

The FSI will be striving throughout the General Election campaign to keep third sector funding in the public eye. We will reiterate the value, both in economic and social terms, that small charities make to our country.

The FSI will use the election and Small Charity Week in June to highlight these issues and ensure an ongoing dialogue between the sector and policymakers.

I will be inviting the leaders of the three main parties to visit small charities during the campaign to see first-hand the innovative work being done, often on a shoestring, to build a better Britain.

Emma Harrison, chair, training provider A4e

Pounds for pets plea

Veterinary charity PDSA is holding its first ever fund-raising month in May. Called Pounds for Pets, it aims to raise thousands for sick and injured pets across the country.

We are asking animal lovers to organise events to raise funds.

To find out how to get involved and for your free starter pack, email fundraising@pdsa.org.uk or call 01952 204791.

Ian Taylor, N021D

Brenda Smith, PDSA

Neighbours will be green with envy

MORE home owners in Kent have seen the light and are turning to solar power to cut energy bills, it has been claimed.

As most bills have been rising in recent years, taking energy from the sun has been getting cheaper. This winter's snow helped convince many that a greener way of heating homes and providing hot water would be better for the budget.

A survey found three-quarters of Kent householders are considering installing solar panels. Researchers also found 52 per cent admitted to turning their heating down or off during the winter because they were worried about the size of their bill.

Snob appeal was also behind some of the thinking, the survey discovered.

Symbol

Some 38 per cent said solar panels were the ultimate green status symbol and 51 per cent said they would feel envious if a neighbour had them, bringing new meaning to the phrase green with envy.

And 77 per cent are actively seeking to cut their carbon footprint with 87 per cent setting a shining example and using energy efficient light bulbs and 78 per cent recycling.

Kent was ranked fifth in a green league table of the Home Counties, commissioned by Reflect Energy.

The bad news is that many are now turning in to eco quarrellers as well as eco warriors, with householders admitting sparks often fly over green issues. Most green disputes in Kent are caused when family members don't switch off the lights, followed by leaving the heating on or having it too high.

Whisky galore if UKIP hopeful upsets the odds

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

UKIP leader Lord Pearson has admitted failing to convince one of his own party's Kent candidates to stand down and support his Tory rival.

The 67-year-old insurance tycoon wanted Ian Davison to give up his dream of becoming the MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey and instead give his backing to the Conservative Eurosceptic Gordon Henderson, but his pleas fell on deaf ears.

Had Mr Davison gone along with the plan, he would have been UKIP's second Kent MP this week to have withdrawn their candidacy after Robin Johnson in Rochester and Strood did exactly that.

Lord Pearson paid a visit to the county last Thursday and said his party's new policy was to put the country first and back would-be MPs who support UK independence.

"We don't want to stand against politicians

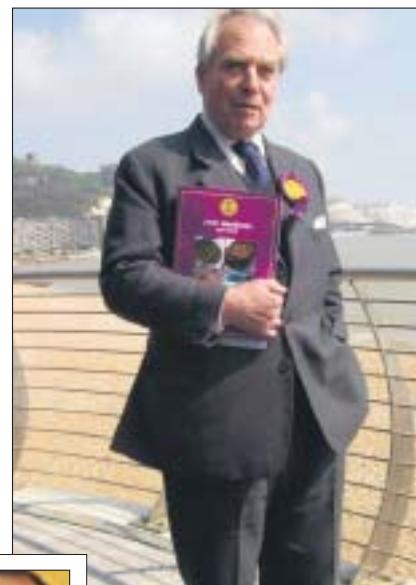
who share our main goals," he said. "That's why we are supporting Conservative candidate Mark Reckless in Rochester and Strood, by putting up billboards and asking people to vote for him.

"I wanted to do the same in Sittingbourne and Sheppey, because Gordon Henderson is also a Eurosceptic and I would have liked our candidate to step down.

"Unfortunately I haven't been able to persuade him. I've actually got a little bit going with him because he says he'll win the election and I've promised him a magnum of whisky if he does. If he doesn't, he's agreed to support my formula next time."

Lord Pearson was elected UKIP leader in November after Bromley's Nigel Farage announced he was stepping down so he could contest the Buckingham seat at the General Election.

Former Tory Lord Pearson – who was expelled from the party in 2004 after calling on voters to back UKIP – visited Kent to support those concerned about the proposed privatisation of



DOVER AND OUT: Lord Pearson, above, was unable to convince UKIP's Sittingbourne and Sheppey candidate Ian Davison, left, to step aside in favour of other Eurosceptics, but did offer him a little side wager

the Port of Dover. He said the half a billion pounds the Government expects to make from the sale could easily be saved by severing ties with the EU.

He said: "You've got to put that against the cost of our membership, which is £124 billion a year. In 2008 the Government's own figures say we gave £6.6bn to Brussels in cash, which works out at £18 million a day – that's 600 nurses on an annual salary of £30,000 each.

It's silly to say we can't find half a billion when we're throwing so much money away on Europe."

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CMG Life Care, who have clinics in Maidstone, Allington and Chatham, boast some of the best care around.

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Lasers for hair removal, treatment for leg veins, tattoo removal, chemical peels and skin tightening as well as acne rosacea treatments are all specialities of the clinic.

Travel vaccinations are another service on offer at a practice which has remained a model of excellence for the past 25 years.

The most popular treatments also include Botox, dermal fillers and facial skin refreshers – ideal for those who want to look and feel

their best for the holiday season.

Particularly popular is the Sculptra facial lift which does not involve surgery but brings excellent results – it can make customers look 10 years younger.

Kat Yeh, laser therapist, said: "As part of a growing general practice we have developed a special interest in non-invasive cosmetic treatments."

New clients who bring this article with them can claim a 10 per cent introductory discount. The Churchill Clinic, 94 Churchill Avenue, Chatham, ME5 0DL CMG Life Care. Telephone: 0845 6019982. www.aestheticface.co.uk

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DAY & NIGHT**Folk north of border**

ACCLAIMED singer-songwriter Fraser Nimmo will perform for Faversham Folk Club tonight.

The Scottish artist will combine traditional songs with his own Celtic songs at the Chimney Boy at 8.30pm. Tickets cost £5 for members and £6 for non-members. Admission is free for under-18s. For details visit www.favershamfolkclub.net.

Art show al fresco

A REDUNDANT space in Dover has been animated by artists until May 8.

The former bus depot in Russell Street has been revived with video, projections, sound and installations. The free exhibition is accessible from dawn to dusk every day. It will also be open to the public from noon to 3pm on Saturday and on May 1 and 8.

Acting for youngsters

MARLOWE Youth Theatre is encouraging young children to get the acting bug.

Sessions for eight to 11-year-olds will start at St Stephen's Junior School in Hales Drive, Canterbury, at 10.30am on Saturday. The term is 13 weeks long with a half-term break and costs £40.

For more information call 01227 787787.

A comedy double act

ENJOY an evening of laughter when Birchington Guild of Players present two one-act comic plays.

The group will perform *The Godsend* by Nina Warner Hook and Gosforth's *Fete* by Alan Ayckbourn at The Centre in Alpha Road at 7.30pm on Thursday and Friday. An interval supper will be served. Tickets cost £6. To book call 01843 843687.

Curtain up on laughs

A HARASSED theatre manager must cope with a multitude of problems in the comic play, *Curtain Call*.

Bettine Manktelow's comedy is at the Astor Community Theatre in Deal at 7.30pm from Thursday to Saturday. Tickets cost £8/£7 and are available from the Sound House in Deal High Street on 01304 381134.

Join fun at music hall

STEP back in time to enjoy the nostalgia of Victorian music hall at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs on Saturday.

The Marley Players present an evening of good old-fashioned entertainment with audience participation. Tickets cost £6.50 for Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members and £8.50 for non-members who must book 24 hours in advance. Call 0845 262 6263.

Sax top of bill at Grand

AWARD-WINNING saxophonist Alan Barnes will perform at The Grand in Folkestone on Thursday.

The jazz icon is joined in the Kepells Music Room by keyboardist Nick Peck, bass player Alex Keene and drummer Rod Brown. The music starts at 8.30pm and admission costs £6. For more information call 01303 277175.

Ripping yarn not for faint-hearted

DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE

Friday, April 23, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

GOOD battles evil for the human soul in *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

European Arts Company presents an exciting new version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story, which sees an amiable doctor take his experiments too far. Set in Victorian London, the tale finds out what happens when Dr Jekyll succeeds in separating his better self from his dark half, unleashing a monster in the form of the abominable Mr Hyde.

The show boasts a connection to a real-life horror – the horrific Whitechapel murders that terrified London in 1888. When American actor Richard Mansfield staged the first theatrical adaptation of the story in London that summer, his production was to be short-lived. Audiences were horrified by the play and spotted parallels with the dreadful murders, leading to Mansfield being questioned as a Jack the Ripper suspect.

When the idea that a doctor could be responsible for the crimes began to circulate, people could see the similarities between fact and fiction. Although he was not prosecuted for the crimes, Mansfield's ordeal and a public debate over the violence of his billboard poster led to the show being shut down.

European Arts Company takes the Ripper connection as its starting point and sets the action in the notorious Ten Bells pub in Whitechapel, the only known connection between the victims.

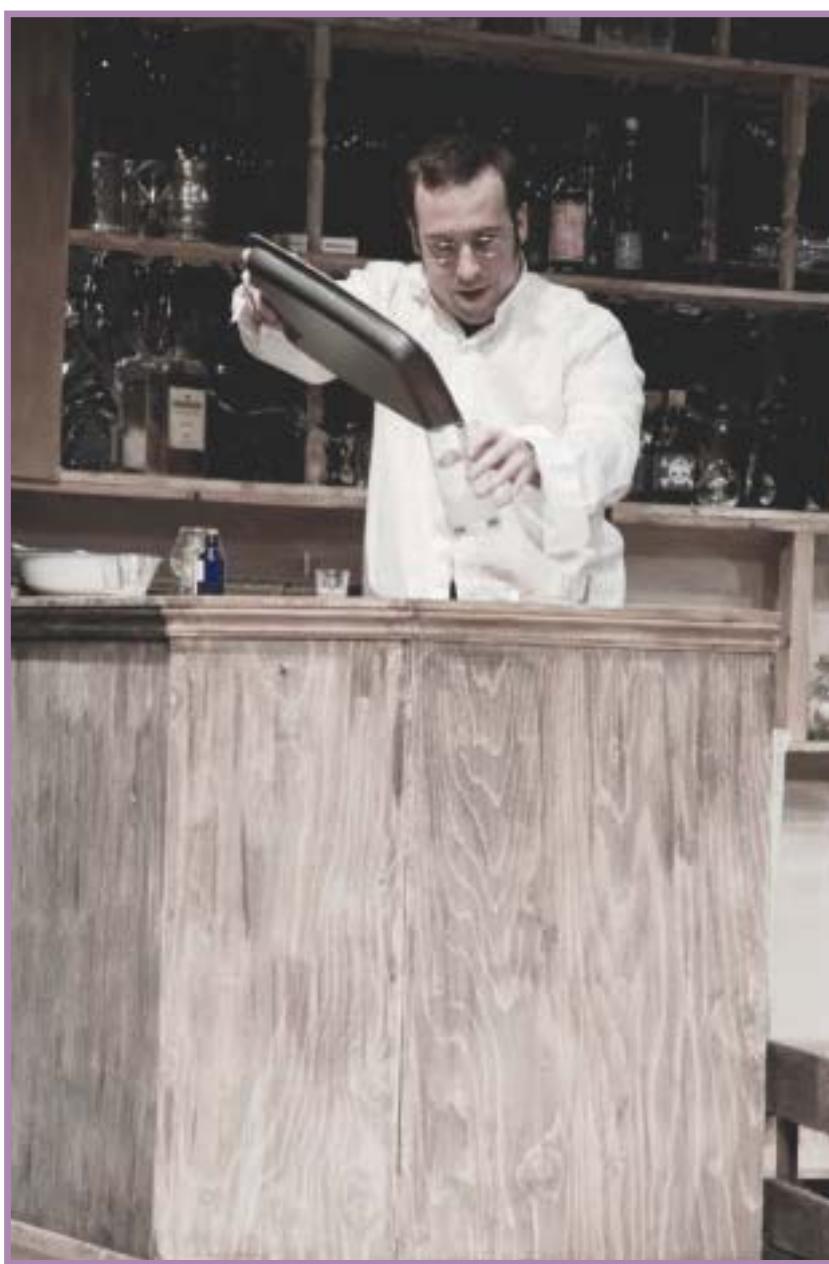
Formed in 2002, European Arts Company is based at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone. Over the years it has undertaken a number of domestic and foreign tours, producing shows such as *The Pickwick Papers* and Chekhov's *Shorts*. The latest production was chosen not only because of its gripping plotline, but also the complex and timeless issues that the story explores.

The company staged a production of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* two years ago, a dark story that explores psychology, personality and sexuality, as well as being a timelessly gripping horror story. Set in much the same world, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* also tackles these issues and raises questions of ethics and morality in science.

Just like their production of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, European Arts Company has added an extra element of interest with their staging.

The previous show was set in an artist's studio and the actors could tell the story using only the props found in that setting, an idea which has been replicated with the average East End pub as the backdrop.

Using only their imagination and acting skills, the actors are challenged to tell the tale using these simple props and they have proved to be very good at the task, producing everything from a train to a Scottish manor.



Part of the company's aim was to reintroduce people to the story, as it is a classic tale which has entered our common language and many people believe they know what the story is really about.

But if they have not read the book, they might not be truly familiar with the thought-provoking issues that Robert Louis Stevenson explores in this much-loved text.

Whether you are a newcomer to the story or familiar with the book, there is much to enjoy in this thrilling and well-presented show.

The performance starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £14. To book visit the website at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.



TO FIND MORE THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENT NEWS LOG ON AT yourkenttv.co.uk

It's survival of the least bored as Law indulges in slow-mo carnage

■ BY DAMON SMITH

WITH life-expectancy increasing steadily, our ageing population makes ever greater demands on the state for medical care.

The utopian dream of a National Health Service struggles to cope and, inevitably, patients are forced to consider private treatment to avoid the weeks, if not months, of distress.

Based on the novel *The repossession Mambo* by Eric Garcia, *Repo Men* is a futuristic thriller that takes that demand for longer, fuller lives to its chilling conclusion.

Men, women and children pay to stay alive and when their credit runs out, the conglomerates that produce artificial organs take back their miracle goods and give them instead to customers with a healthier bank balance.

Survival of the richest.

Miguel Sapochnik's film centres on a powerful organisation called The Union, which is able to provide expensive artificial organs for a five-figure sum.

Patients take out high-interest loans to cover the cost and if they fall three months behind with repayments, repossession men such as Remy (Jude Law) and Jake (Forest Whitaker) arrive unannounced to knock the donor unconscious with a stun-gun before retrieving the valuable organ.

Remy's work causes conflict with his wife Carol and young son Peter, so he considers a transfer to the sales team.

For his final job, he is contracted to retrieve an organ from a famous musician, but the procedure goes wrong and Remy ends up in hospital requiring a artificial heart.

"You owe it to your family. You owe it to yourself," smarms Union manager Frank.

Unable to meet interest rates of almost 20 per cent, Remy falls behind with repayments and pleads for the clemency he never showed any of his targets.

"Take me out of your system," begs Remy.



GLOVES ON: Jude Law, as repo man Remy, prepares to remove a hire-purchase vital organ from a cash-strapped client who had the misfortune to fail on a couple of repayments

"Give me your heart," barks Frank.

Marked for death, Remy goes on the run for his life and he meets singer Beth (Alice Braga), whose body is riddled with artificial organs and joints.

Together, they attempt to bring down The Union.

Repo Men delights in scenes of gore as Remy and Jake scythe open debtors and rip various

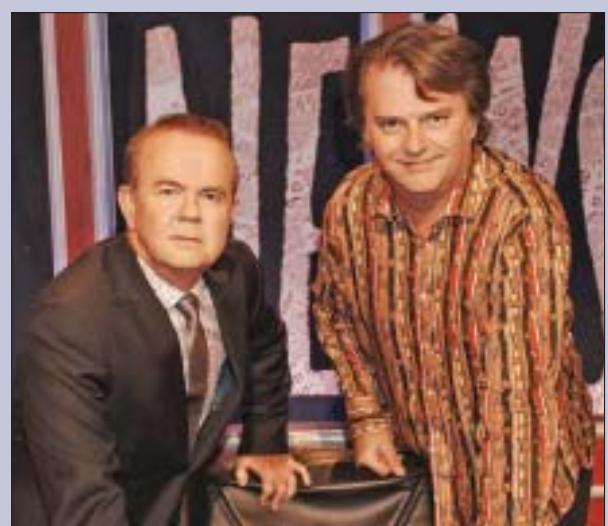
organs from their lifeless bodies. Law convinces as a heartless servant of corporate fat cats, but there's scant emotion in his performance and the romance with Braga's rebel sparks to life in the blink of an eye after Remy has begged forgiveness from his wife.

Oscar-winner Whitaker perspires furiously as he tries to work out why he signed up to such substandard genre fare.

Action scenes are heavy on slow motion to capture arcing arterial spray as Remy takes a hammer, hacksaw and knife to his pursuers.

The film fails to keep audiences gripped and a final-reel twist only prolongs our boredom.

REPO MEN 
Certificate 18



LONG-RUNNING: Ian Hislop and Paul Merton enter the 39th series



YOUR TV REVIEW HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU: BBC1, 9pm Thursdays

THURSDAY night comedy is back in vogue on the BBC with long-running satirical show *Have I Got News For You* in a new slot.

Now incredibly in its 39th series, having sealed its own place in television folklore, team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton show no signs of flagging.

The new time caught me by surprise while just casually flicking through the channels, on what is usually a stifling evening schedule of *Question Time* followed by *Newsnight* and the *Daily Politics*.

But perhaps this is the Beeb's way of breaking up that monopoly, especially during the relentless course of the election campaign when some light relief is in order.

The first episode kicked off in earnest with comedian Lee Mack breaking off from his nationwide tour

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

to guest-host. Panellists on the first episode, which aired at the start of the month, were Kent-based politician and UKIP leader Nigel Farage together with Scottish comedian Kevin Bridges.

There was no refuge for Farage from the withering put-downs by *Private Eye* editor Hislop.

This inevitably led to a clip of the MEP's tirade against new EU president Herman Van Rompuy, where he accused him of as having all the "charisma of a damp rag" and the "appearance of a low-grade bank clerk".

Bridges was quiet for the first half, but had the audience in stitches towards the end by pointing out that the Tories' use of a Gordon Brown

poster, which mockingly quotes him as saying 'I let 80,000 foreign criminals out early, vote for me' had led to the Conservatives losing themselves potential supporters.

Episode two started just as brightly, with Alexander Armstrong in the chair. He was joined by columnist Victoria Coren and comedian Richard Herring, sporting his trademark Hitler' moustache which forms part of his act.

One of the funniest segments was about the proposed renaming of the English Channel to the Anglo-French pond by Brussels bureaucrats.

This led to a list of other inappropriately-named places such as Funbag Drive in Watford, Crotch Crescent in Oxford and Sandy Balls in the New Forest, where coincidentally I happened to have stayed near to over Easter recently.

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CANTERBURY TALES

Until Saturday, June 5, Canterbury Tales, Canterbury

MEDIEVAL lookalikes have the chance of becoming a millionaire if they resemble one of Geoffrey Chaucer's pilgrims.

Anyone who thinks they resemble one of the larger than life characters at the Canterbury attraction could become a very wealthy person by 14th century standards. A prize of £250, the equivalent of a millionaire's bounty back then, is on offer for the person who most resembles one of Canterbury Tales stars.

"We thought this would be a fun way to celebrate the Tales," said Steve Beer, the attraction's

manager. "All the characters within the Tales stir up a number of emotions with their unique styles and looks and we are sure there must be modern day equivalents out there."

"Not only will the winner take home £250, but they could become the face of the attraction. We look forward to people putting themselves or each other forward."

The judging will take place at the launch of the medieval market on Saturday, June 5.

For more information visit www.canterburytales.org.uk or call 01227 784600.



HOLE PARK SPRING

Ongoing, Hole Park, Rovenden,

DISCOVER spring in all its glory as Hole Park Gardens in Rovenden bursts into seasonal life.

From the cheerful yellow of the daffodils to the gorgeous blue of the scillas, visitors can expect a colourful welcome to the new season.

Although many people will be glad to see the back of the winter, owner Edward Barham believes that the icy conditions may actually improve the spring display.

"The coldest winter in 23 years means some plants could be up to four weeks late, leading them

to burst into flower all together around Easter time and giving an amazing display throughout the gardens and woodland," he said. "The flowering season will be fast and furious this year with spectacular colour squeezed into a shorter time span."

The delights to be seen this spring include the wild flower meadows, camellia, rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolia.

Hole Park is open from 11am to 6pm every day until May 31. To find out more call 01580 241344 or visit the website at www.holepark.com.

RAILTRAILS

Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25, Kent & East Sussex Railway, Tenterden

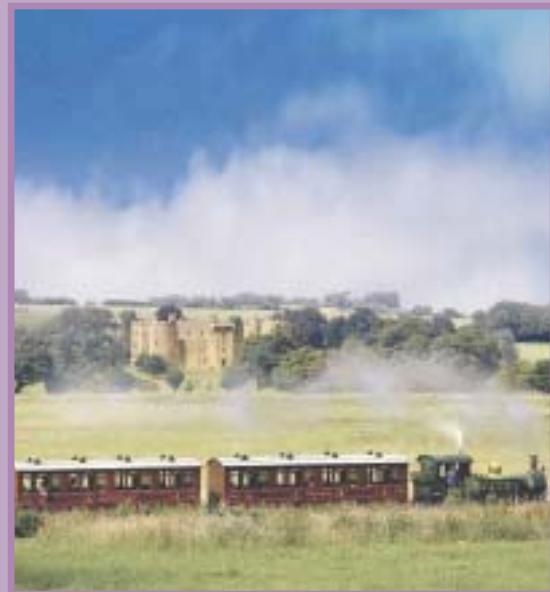
RAMBLERS can enjoy a cheaper way to discover the countryside with the Kent and East Sussex Railway this weekend.

The Railtrails event gives keen walkers the chance to combine an atmospheric steam railway ride with an exhilarating walk in the country. Whether you are an experienced hiker or a novice who fancies exploring the lovely countryside around Tenterden, Bodiam and Northiam stations, the Railtrails event has a route to suit you.

Everyone who combines a ramble with a train ride can enjoy a 25 per cent discount on single rail fares and will also receive a free Railtrails guide book. Inside the book, they will find a selection of six different walks, complete with maps, and a variety of ways to get around.

Ranging from 2.5-miles to six miles in length, most of the trails are only accessible by railway. But the weekend is not exclusively for ramblers – anyone who does not wish to walk can buy full price rover tickets and enjoy the railway as usual.

To find out more call 01580 765155 or visit www.kesr.org.uk.



JETHRO

Monday, April 26, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



THE Westcountry Wag continues to entertain audiences all over the country with his unique take on life.

Every year Jethro tours the country and plays to packed theatres across the UK, full of fans who cannot get enough of his warm and slightly cheeky humour. With his 'friends' Denzel Penberthy, Slipalong Trevaskis and Bill Pedureare in tow, the Cornish comedian promises to have audiences rolling in the aisles.

He started out as a carpenter but stumbled across his vocation while playing a few songs in a local pub. When his voice ran out, he decided to tell a few jokes instead and a star was born. Although he has appeared on television just a handful of times – most notably on Des O'Connor Tonight – his reputation as an excellent live performer has spread like wild fire.

Although he has a number of other business concerns, including his own variety club in Devon, Jethro continues to tour regularly.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £19/£18. To book call the box office on 0844 847 1776 or visit the website at www.leascliffhall.org.uk.



THE GRUFFALO

Tuesday, April 27 and Wednesday, April 28



Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

LEARN about the power of the imagination in the much-loved children's tale, The Gruffalo.

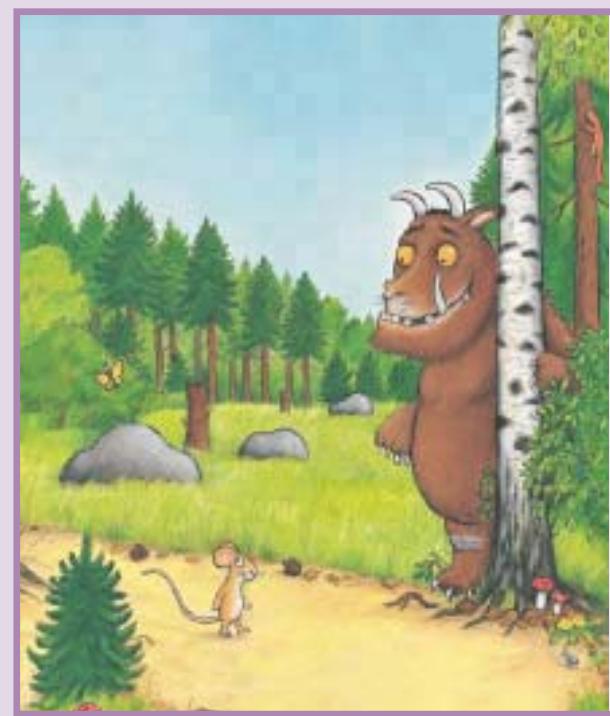
This Tall Stories production is a magical adaptation of the popular book by Julia Donaldson, with Axel Scheffler's beautiful illustrations. Suitable for children aged three and above, The Gruffalo is a captivating family show that will transport audiences of all ages into a fantasy world.

When Mouse sets off on a journey through the dark, wild wood, he is worried about the other animals that might want to eat him. But he soon discovers that he can see off any scary animals in the forest by inventing his own monster, the fearsome Gruffalo.

He believes the creature, with its huge claws and thick fur, is simply a figment of his own imagination. But what will Mouse do when he encounters a real-life Gruffalo?

The hour-long show starts at 1.30pm on Tuesday and at 11am, 1.30pm and 4.20pm on Wednesday.

Tickets cost £10 or £8.50 for groups of 10 or more. Book online at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.



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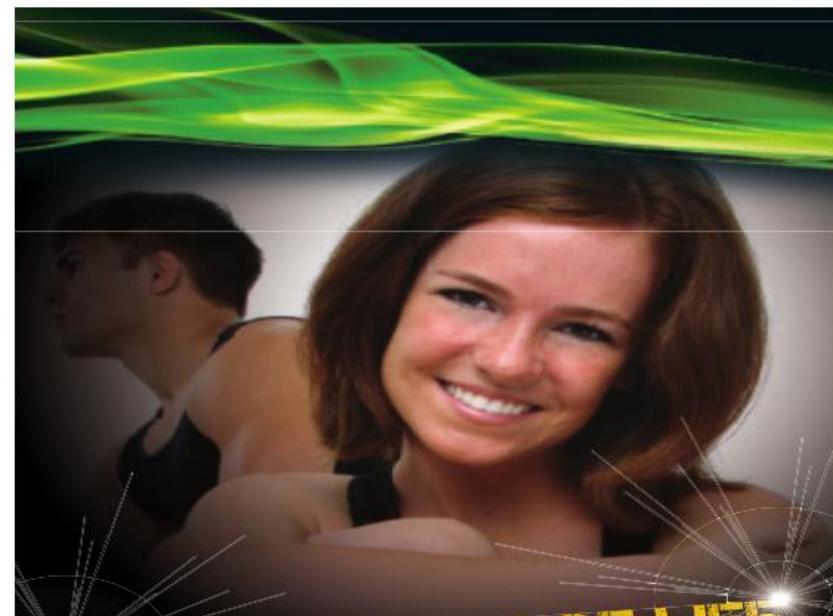
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WOMEN seeking men

WAITING FOR YOU Oriental single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890 **T**

ARE YOU HER MAN OF THE MATCH? Fun-to-be-with, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **T**

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-year-old female, 5ft8, medium-curve build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 **T**

STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH ME! Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **T**

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 446326 **T**

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly female to enjoy the finer things in life, with a desire to LTR with the right person. Box 879331 **T**

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mom, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 448339 **T**

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **T**

FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE Curly blonde, 35, with green eyes, 5ft3, no ties, looking for an affectionate, and caring non-smoking guy to put the sparkle back into my life. Ashford. Box 849704 **T**

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek, 5ft8, short brown/blue hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **T**

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5ft4, 12, dark hair, with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 808734 **T**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **T**

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **T**

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring, I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 880164 **T**

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker. for LTR. Box 440693 **T**

BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and WLTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612 **T**

DO THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine/pubs, enjoys walking and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129 **T**

FAMILY LIFE Fun to be with, woman, 39, like life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392 **T**

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HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT

Shy female, 40, 5ft6, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446733 **T**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy blonde, 39yrs old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **T**

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-once-known female, a mom, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming, seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 443366 **T**

HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT

Shy female, 40, 5ft6, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446733 **T**

IT COULD BE US

Professional, single, Asian woman, 42, easygoing and fun to be with, seeking a single, professional, solvent white male, 44-52. Tunbridge Wells. Box 799391

BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER

Hi there I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and WLTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612 **T**

DO THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine/pubs, enjoys walking and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129 **T**

FAMILY LIFE

Fun to be with, woman, 39, like life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392 **T**



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CHAT

HELP ME OPEN UP Easingly lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male for a good-looking guy, Kent. Box 444655 **T**

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Rochester. Box 450348 **T**

DREAM LOVER Petite blonde, young, 49, loving, caring, enjoys music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 458422 **T**

MAKES IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 **T**

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mom, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 446557 **T**

BY MY SIDE Curvy woman, 49, 5ft10, curly hair, very social, likes walks and pubs. Looking for a cuddly and outgoing man for a close relationship. Faversham. Box 457128 **T**

MAKES IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 446557 **T**

GET CLOSE Funny, cheerful lady, 44, 5ft6, curly hair, very social, likes walks and pubs. Looking for a cuddly and outgoing man for a close relationship. Rochester. Box 446557 **T**

MAKES IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 446557 **T**

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MEN seeking women

FOR LOVE Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays hard like going/eating out, walks, pubs, clubs, eating out etc. Box 448716 **T**

DREAM MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship, leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 **T**

MUST LOVE ANIMALS Light-hearted lady, 57, light hair, blue eyes, 5ft3, enjoys baking, gardening and DIY, seeks romantic non-smoker for romance. Rochester. Box 488691 **T**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, travel; afloat; seeking a happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **T**

DREAMS OF YOU Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 **T**

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5ft9, slim build, plays guitar, likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, clubs, eating out etc. Box 447616 **T**

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5ft9, slim build, plays guitar, likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, clubs, eating out etc. Box 447616 **T**

FULL OF LIFE Ashford man, 35, I'm single, no ties, and looking for a similar woman. I'm 6ft6 with blue eyes/brown hair and enjoy cinema, travel; afloat; seeking a happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **T**

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FULL OF LIFE Ashford man, 35, I'm single, no ties, and looking for a similar woman. I'm 6ft6 with blue eyes/brown hair and enjoy cinema, travel; afloat; seeking a happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **T**

GSOH ESSENTIAL American male, 44, loves playing the guitar, looking for a decent female with a sense of fun about them. Brighton Box 461140 **T**

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Easygoing guy with wicked SOH, 45, 5ft11, slim build, blue eyes and fair hair, loves animals, pubs and more, seeks loving lady for romance. E.Sussex. Box 468639 **T**

ONWARDS & UPWARDS Early 50s widower, very honest and genuine, loves rock music, violin player, great cook, school worker, just hoping to meet someone. Langley, Box 468639 **T**

CHECK TO CHECK Hard working male, 45, slim, fit, looking for full time relationship with a cinema, bowling and film lover. Gillingham. Box 468639 **T**

MAKES A MOVE Single dad, 45, white, likes cooking, gardening, and a passion for Reggae music, seeking a black woman for friendship and romance. Folkestone area. Box 468615 **T**

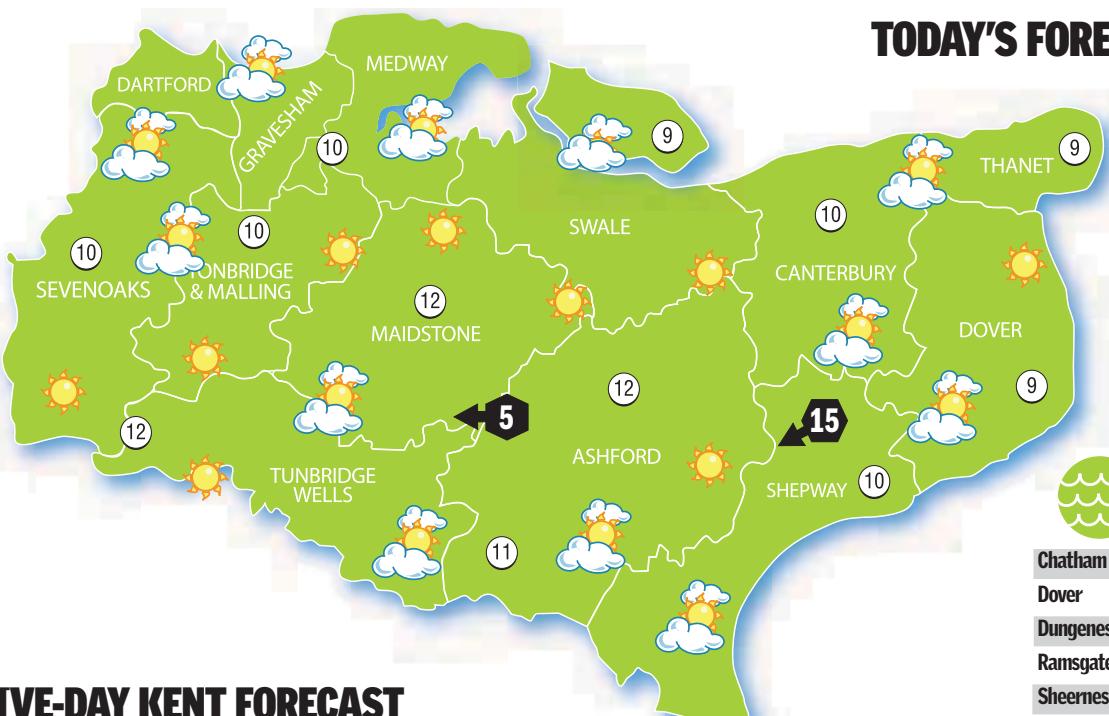
MUSIC LOVER Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cinema, museums and restaurants. You Ashford. Box 467832 **T**

EASY TO LOVE Margate male, 46, tall and slim, easy-going, enjoy cinema, socialising, sport, looking for a decent lady, 40-55, for friendship and maybe a girl. Box 465067 **T**

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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	11°C	Madrid	16°C
Athens	21°C	New York	11°C
Barcelona	17°C	Paris	19°C
Beijing	16°C	Rome	18°C
Bombay	32°C	Sydney	23°C
Cape Town	17°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	12°C	Tokyo	18°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	18°C
Hong Kong	28°C	Warsaw	16°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	20°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	14°C	13°C	12°C	15°C	16°C
Canterbury	12°C	10°C	10°C	13°C	15°C
Chatham	12°C	10°C	9°C	13°C	14°C
Dartford	15°C	12°C	12°C	15°C	16°C
Dover	12°C	10°C	10°C	13°C	13°C
Faversham	12°C	10°C	9°C	13°C	14°C
Folkestone	12°C	10°C	10°C	13°C	13°C
Gillingham	12°C	10°C	9°C	13°C	14°C
Gravesend	15°C	12°C	12°C	15°C	16°C
Maidstone	14°C	12°C	11°C	15°C	16°C
Ramsgate	12°C	10°C	10°C	13°C	15°C
Rochester	12°C	10°C	9°C	13°C	14°C

KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	9:45am 5.3m	Sunday	10:57am 5.7m
Dover	Saturday	8:24am 5.7m	Sunday	9:24am 6.0m
Dungeness	Saturday	8:00am 6.3m	Sunday	9:12am 6.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	8:54am 4.3m	Sunday	9:54am 4.6m
Sheerness	Saturday	9:33am 5.2m	Sunday	10:45am 5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	9:42am 4.8m	Sunday	10:51am 5.0m

SUNRISE 5.47am SUNSET 8.02pm

MOONRISE 11.05am MOONSET 2.28am



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The Spencer Wing

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Tel: **01843 234555** www.thespencerwing.com

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William Harvey Hospital, Kennington Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0LZ

Tel: **01233 616201** www.thespencerwing.com

THE RAILWAY SWING BAND

Weds 21st April 7.30pm

The band plays a mixture of most of the great swing era – Ellington, Goodman, Basie, Miller, Kenton, Gillespie, Herman etc, with a few modern compositions thrown in.



LOVING APRIL

Thurs 29th April 7.30pm

World Premiere of Melvin Burgess's novel. It tells the tale of a young woman trapped in a world of silence in the strictly moral world of 1920s England. £12.50/£11



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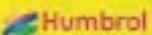
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Manager Celia Hanks said: "We realised quickly we had to be different to all the other garden centres so we not only grow our own plants but source unique products from all over the world.

"You will always find something different here and our friendly staff keep the customers coming back again and again."

We see the online gardening club as an add service to our loyal customers and friends, the family have surely come a long way during the last 88 years from horse and cart of our great granddads to the internet but we are still just as friendly.

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Question: How Long has Gardeners Paradise been in business?

Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to The Gardeners Paradise Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is Monday, May 10, 2010.

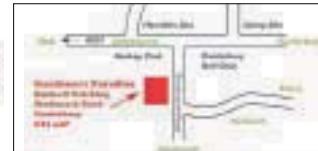
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yourmusic

Local heroes join legends at farm



NEXT BIG THING? Alternate folk aficionados The Slow Club have joined the line-up

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A HOST of hot up-and-comers will head for the haystacks later this year after being unveiled as Lounge on the Farm's latest line-up additions.

The bands were added to the bill by co-curators Moshi Moshi and Wichita Recordings.

Between them the revered indie labels have helped launch the careers of Hot Chip, Bloc Party, The Cribs and Florence & The Machine and will be hoping their latest pupils will emulate their predecessors.

The new acts on offer throughout day two of the summer weekend include Slow Club, The Wave Pictures and Hot Club de Paris.

A Lounge spokesman said: "The two labels will showcase the wealth of new blood on their respective rosters.

"Such is their collective reputation for sniffing out the next big thing, you can guarantee the day will be littered with soon-to-be venue fillers including alt folk aficionados Slow Club, the enigmatic Silver Columns, floktronic purveyor James Yuill and acclaimed Swedish vocal harmonisers First Aid Kit."

Among the LOTF headliners are Motown greats Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, ska legends Toots & The Maytals, The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, DJ Yoda and Courtney Pine.

Lounge bosses are promising their fifth year will be the biggest and best yet.

The spokesman added: "We have a medley of musical pleasures – from local heroes and the next big things to the truly legendary – spread across seven stages, plus incredible comedy, theatre, burlesque and vaudeville treats, the kids' Little Lounge area and some of the most refined, locally-sourced refreshments to be found at any festival."

LOTF is at Merton Farm, Canterbury, from Friday, July 9, to Sunday, July 11. A weekend adult ticket costs £95. Day tickets are released next month.

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■ Belleville perform For You (Forever Young) in Canterbury.



■ Jus' Ben covers Keane's modern classic Everybody's Changing.



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - Times Change (from Deal)
- 2 I.R.I.S - Thicker Than Water (from Deal)
- 3 Save Target As - You've Got Me (from Deal)
- 4 Shelta - We Can Make It (from Bexley)
- 5 Craig Sheridan - Winter Sunn

For more information visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk
 LINE-UP: Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, Toots & The Maytals, DJ Yoda, Courtney Pine, Fionn Regan, Kitty, Daisy & Lewis, Tuning, Crazy World of Arthur Brown, Thomas Gandey (Cagedbaby), Male Bonding, Gaggle, Man Like Me, King Charles, Circulus, Jesca Hoop, Treetop Flyers, Your Twenties, Don Letts, The Glimmers, J'Star, Raf Daddy (Two Bears), Vadimmessico, Xylaroo, 6 Day Riot, Cats And Cats And Cats, Cocos Lovers, Elephants, Gaolers Daughter, Cha Cha, Polka Party, Two Wounded Birds, Hobo Jones & The Junkyard Dogs, Intensified, Krissy & The Jackdaws, Slap Alice and Natasha Davies



NORTHERN LIGHTS: If you're in luck, you'll catch the Aurora Borealis over Reykjavik. Failing that, head to Nasa, below, for a light show

yourgetaways



See the sights and the lights in the Land of Midnight Sun

■ BY WESLEY JOHNSON

"IF I don't come back, it's probably best not to follow me," our guide says, axe in hand, as he cautiously navigates the boulder of ice blocking our route.

We are standing on the tongue of a glacier in the south of Iceland, the rain and fog hampering our vision as it hammers down.

Jet-black volcanic ash covers the ice as we make our way across the glacier, steering clear of the many crevices and cracks in the ever-changing landscape.

Nothing dissolves a hangover as fast as the need to concentrate, yet we are just two hours from the bars and restaurants of Reykjavik.

The buzzing city centre sees the day's coffee bars transformed into vibrant venues at night.

All the action takes place around Laugavegur, the main street, with revellers flitting from one bar to the next until 5am.

NASA, an impressive club playing music from disco to house, offers only a small stage but attracts some of the best live music in the country.

The barn-like Jacobsen offers techno and electro beats, while the cosy Kaffibarinn, part-owned by Blur's Damon Albarn, is reputedly one of the coolest bars in the city. It is no wonder that it draws crowds from far and wide.

The collapse of the Icelandic banking system halved the value of the Icelandic króna and plunged the prices towards UK levels – this is one of the few places in Europe where Britons feel well off.

And for the way home, the famous Baejarins Beztu hot-dog stand lies near the harbour with its picture of former US President Bill Clinton eating one of its finest specimens.

FACT FILE: ICELAND

Time difference	+One hour (GMT)
Capital	Reykjavik
Language	Icelandic
Population	317,500
Currency	Icelandic krona

Wesley Johnson flew with Iceland Express from Gatwick to Reykjavik from £89 single, including taxes. Stansted flights also available. Call 0118 321 8384 and www.icelandexpress.com.

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However, after a night of midsummer madness in the land of fire and ice, one of the best places for a morning of recovery is the Blue Lagoon.

Feted for their healing power and set in a lava field, the soft, milky waters of the silica-rich geothermal spa are an inviting 39c.

When you are ready to face the day, venture beyond the capital for the country's real treasures.

The landscape has a moon-like quality with the rocky, black lava fields surrounding our coach.

The Solheimajokull glacier tongue, two hours from Reykjavik, is an awesome sight.

Some eight kilometres long, the ever-moving block of ice, up to 600 metres deep, is an unforgiving environment.

Our mountain guide, Bjorgvin – who was carrying ropes and climbing gear in case of an accident – said

the landscape was changing so much that each time he returned to it, it was different.

The ice is retreating at a rate of 100 metres per year as it melts, and strong streams draining off snowfields high on the Myrdalsjokull volcano, undercut and erode the glacier.

It's no place for the unprepared.

"It's not a walk in the park," said Bjorgvin as he checked that we knew how to use our kit.

With the Arctic Circle just 25 miles to its north, the winter temperatures from October to May also bring the awe-inspiring Northern Lights – shimmering light-shows in the night sky.

But with a clear, cold night – and a splash of luck – needed to see them, we knew we were out of luck. The incessant rain left us with rather more time than we had expected to explore the city's nightlife to the full.

MOTORS NEWS



Malaysian brand gets a big Scrappage boost

PERODUA saw new vehicle registrations rise a whopping 114.5 per cent year-on-year in March.

The Malaysian manufacturer's Myvi five-door supermini, which costs less than £7,000, took the lion's share of the sales boosted by the final month of Scrappage, offering a £2,000 grant towards a new car in return for scrapping a part-exchange vehicle at least ten years old.

Perodua's first-quarter sales were also 88.6 per cent up on the previous year – it also sells the boxy Kenari mini-MPV.



Land Rover's march to best-ever sales record

LAND Rover recorded its best-ever UK sales for March – 67 per cent up on March 2009 – and also saw demand soar 43 per cent globally in the same month.

The British-based, Indian-owned 4x4 specialist's MD Phil Popham said the increase was due to "phenomenal" response to the 2010 model year Range Rover, Range Rover Sport, Discovery and Freelander.

"It is the most efficient and technologically advanced line-up of vehicles Land Rover has ever had," he said.



Mazda breaks 50,000 barrier for second time

KENT-based Mazda UK has sold more than 50,000 new cars in this country during a year for only the second time in its history.

The Mazda2 supermini was the company's top seller in the 2009/2010 financial year, shifting 20,000 – 7,000 more than in the previous year.

Mazda UK MD Jeremy Thomson said: "What has really driven our sales is a very healthy retail mix, with 70 per cent of total sales to private buyers, well ahead of the industry average of around 55 per cent."



STRETCHING THE TRUTH: You can't knock the Clio Sport Tourer for practicality with 50 per cent more load space than a standard Clio, but it does not have quite the right image

When is an estate not an estate? When it's a Clio!

RENAULT offers a load-lugging version of its big-selling Clio supermini, but don't even think about calling it an estate.

It's the Clio Sport Tourer to you and me and it packs 50 per cent more load space than the standard Clio hatch – one of the most capacious models in its class anyway.

What you lose, though, is the elegance and French chic this spin-off should inherit by right from its hatchback sister.

To be fair, the 'supermini estate' is one of the toughest styling briefs in the industry; superminis are pretty space-efficient anyway, so you have to add a bit of bulk to make an estate alternative worthwhile – ugliness tends to be an unfortunate side-effect.

Skoda has booted twice with successive Fabia load-carriers and, though early shots of the forthcoming Seat Ibiza estate look promising, I still fear the sporty Spanish brand might yet deliver something mundane in the metal.

And that's the Clio's problem, made all the worse by trying to dress it up with alloy roof rails and marketing hype like 'Sport Tourer'

ROAD TEST RENAULT CLIO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

when it looks anything but. However, you can't knock its practicality: a low 58cm rear sill height eases loading heavy or bulky items; rear seats can be folded flat without having to remove the headrests and there is a compartment to stow the rear parcel cover when not in use.

Prices start from £12,575, but our car was the flagship £16,085 Dynamique 86bhp 1.5-litre diesel with inbuilt TomTom sat-nav system and generous spec – but starting to look expensive at this sort of money.

I'm a big fan of Renault's willing diesels, but the extra cabin space of the Sport Tourer allows a lot of boomerang intrusion from both the engine and the road.

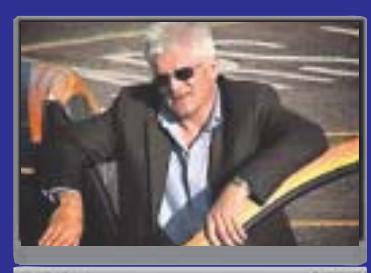
And while cabin trimming is quite smart in places, a luxurious leather-clad wheel and alloy highlights cannot disguise the fact that the materials were sourced for the more humble Clio models. As usual, I also found Renault's sound system needlessly complicated.

The standard Clio driving dynamics are good, with a fine balance of handling and comfort, though the car's styling does not quite have the 'mini-lifestyle estate' image that Renault wants that Sport Tourer label to suggest.



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Used Car Section

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Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 25,300 miles. £8,795

Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Jan 2008

Beige Metallic 24,700 miles * Manual Diesel £7,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Ambiente (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2007

Brilliant Silver Metallic 22,473 miles * Automatic Petrol £7,495

Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007

Brilliant Silver Metallic 11,572 miles * Manual Petrol £6,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,628 miles. £6,795

Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007

Beige Metallic 25,400 miles * Manual Petrol £6,795

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Comfort (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2004

Graphite Grey Metallic 48,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £4,995

Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI Elegance 5-DR Hatchback Aug 2004

Cappuccino 48,000 miles. £6,995

*Correct at time of going to press.

Skoda Octavia 1.6 FSI Hatchback Aug 2006

Silver Air con, rear parking sensors, 32,000 miles. £6,995

Skoda Octavia 1.4 Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 79,450 miles. £2,995

Other Makes

BMW 1 Series 1.6 116i ES 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Jet Black with a Black Cloth interior, 40,550 miles. £9,795

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Styline 5-Door Hatchback Sep 2006

Nayara Blue Metallic 20,695 miles * Manual Diesel £7,995

SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV Nov 2003

Pearl Blue Metallic 92,500 miles * Manual Diesel £5,795

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback Apr 2007

Black Magic Metallic 40,055 miles * Manual Petrol £5,995

Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 DTi 16v Design 5-Door MPV

Finished in Moonland Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 38,900 miles. £5,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Life 16v 5-Door Hatchback Jan 2005

Metro Blue Metallic 67,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £4,995

Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004

Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles * Manual Petrol £4,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback Dec 2006

Silver Lightning Metallic 33,364 miles * Manual Petrol £6,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate Jan 2005

Metro Blue Metallic 29,700 miles * Automatic Petrol £6,495

Fiat Multipla 1.6 100 16v ELX 5-Door MPV

Finished in Antarctic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 68,900 miles. £4,995

Vauxhall Agila 1.0 Expression 5-Door Hatchback Aug 2006

Royal Blue Metallic 17,376 miles * Manual Petrol £4,295

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar 2002

Bright Red 39,350 miles * Manual Petrol £3,995

Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. £3,995

Renault Scenic 1.6 Expression + 5-Dr Hatchback Apr 2001

Norse Grey Metallic 71,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £2,795



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Car shown is a Journey 2.0 CRD RT Manual £22,595 OTR. *Range pricing of £16,995 refers to Journey 2.4 SE Manual, including Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), first registration fee and VAT. Model features optional metallic paint at an additional £450 including VAT. [†]Excluding SE models. [‡]RT models only. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press (04/10). Dodge is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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As well as our usual opening times, we shall be open from 3.00pm to 7.00pm Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May to take entries.

Regrettably no entries will be accepted on the sale day. All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Homeowners look to improve rather than move house

HOME improvement has come back into fashion due to a lull in large-scale activity in the housing market, say analysts.

John Drennan, director at builders' merchant Buildbase, also pointed out that enquiries for landscaping and exterior renovation had risen as well.

Another trend he noted was the increase in demand for plant hire. He said: "Large contractors are thinking 'Why spend capital to buy plant machinery?' and they are actually hiring it."

He agreed that sustainability was important and everyone was interested in what they could do.

Mr Drennan pointed to rainwater-harvesting and using solar power as ways of reducing a carbon footprint.

His comments came after the Conservative Party announced details of its Rebuilding Security proposal to offer households up to £6,500 worth of energy-efficiency improvements.

Earlier this month, the British Property Federation became the 22nd member of a coalition calling for VAT to be reduced on housing improvements.

Authority calls for mortgage limits to restrain market

THE Financial Services Authority claims that restricting mortgage rates could help prevent a boom-and-bust culture in the housing market.

FSA boss Lord Adair Turner proposed introducing "maximum limits on loan-to-value ratios" to curb asset price-bubbles in commercial or residential real estate.

However, the suggestions have been criticised by Bernard Clarke, communications manager for the Council Of Mortgage Lenders.

He said: "We don't think that that's an appropriate approach – we think it's a blunt tool in terms of addressing the real sources of consumer detriment."

Mr Clarke noted that the Council Of Mortgage Lenders does not favour credit control because of the risks it poses in excluding some consumers, who would not be able to access to a mortgage even though they could sustain the commitment.



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Reasons to be cheerful, with buyers trading up

■ BY NICK AMES

MOST of the people who want to move house are looking for bigger property, suggesting that consumers feel increasingly confident about the housing market, according to a recent study by estate agents.

The National Association of Estate Agents reported that 78 per cent of its members said the key reason potential buyers and sellers gave for moving was a desire to buy a bigger home.

The figure contrasted with research carried out last year, which showed a rising demand for smaller properties.

This meant an upsurge in interest in flats but fewer people wanting to buy four-bedroom detached homes.

Encouraging

The group said the resurgence in people looking to trade up the property ladder added to evidence that the housing slump was easing and the market was becoming more buoyant.

Peter Bolton King, chief executive of the NAEA, said: "The fact that there has been an increase in the number of people moving to a larger property suggests the UK is slowly emerging from the economic downturn.

"This may also be attributed to increased mortgage availability, which is encouraging news for the property industry."

The group, which asked 1,000 estate agents to cite the top three reasons people gave for wanting to buy or sell a home, also found that 58 per cent of agents said moves were being driven by people getting divorced, while 27 per cent cited getting a new job as a reason for moving.

But 41 per cent of estate agents said that needing to repay debt was a major factor forcing homeowners to sell their property, while 39 per cent said their clients were buying or selling a home following a family death.

Optimism in the market is at a two-and-a-half-year high, with four out of five expecting prices to increase in the next six months, according to a survey from property website Zoopla.co.uk, with the average increase predicted at 5.7 per cent.

"With the bad weather behind us and the recent stamp-duty relief introduced for first-time buyers, confidence in the property market has bounced back well," said the firm's commercial director, Nicholas Leeming.

Meanwhile, the latest index from Halifax shows that property prices bounced back in March, rising by 1.1 per cent, having fallen in February.

It is the eighth rise in the past nine months, taking the average price to 9.1 per cent above the low point reached in April last year.

The increase partly offsets February's 1.6 per cent fall and takes the average value of a home to £168,521.

This is 0.6 per cent higher than in the final quarter of 2009, compared with a 3.6 per cent rise between the third and fourth quarters of last year.

But Halifax economist Martin Ellis said this pointed towards a slowdown in house-price growth.

He said that a rise in the number of properties for sale was beginning to reduce the imbalance between supply and demand and was therefore likely to constrain the upward pressure on house prices.



OPTIMISTIC: Peter Bolton King of the NAEA

Clean up your act for safer home



SPRING-cleaning your house this year could make it safer for all who live there, say safety experts.

Storing large amounts of flammable material such as newspapers and cardboard can pose a substantial fire risk to your home, Kent Fire And Rescue Service is warning.

The advice is to keep such items to a minimum to help reduce the chances and effects of fire. Kent Fire And Rescue Service is also urging people to be good citizens and offer to help other family members – and especially older people – dispose of any household rubbish they may have accumulated.

Stuart Skilton, head of community fire safety, said: "Should you have a fire in your home, the presence of large amounts of flammable

material such as newspaper will mean that the fire will spread at a much faster rate.

"Our advice is to keep your home environment rubbish-free and to keep escape routes and doorways unblocked at all times.

"However, when throwing rubbish out, make sure you store it sensibly so it does not present a fire risk while it awaits collection.

"We also cannot over-emphasise the importance of having working smoke-alarms fitted in your home to allow early detection in case of fire.

"It is vital that you maintain your smoke-alarms and test the battery once a week to ensure they can be relied upon.

"Regular vacuuming around smoke-alarms is also recommended."

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Walderslade
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• 4 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• QUIET GATED DEVELOPMENT

• EN-SUITE
• POPULAR LOCATION
• DOUBLE GARAGE
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£365,000

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• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
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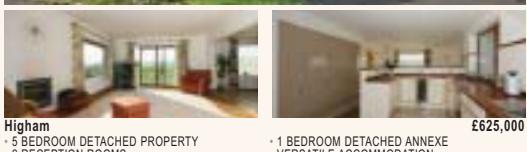
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REF: Prestige_64541S



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- CELLAR
- STORE BARN

£100,000

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- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- STUDY
- FAMILY BATHROOM / EN-SUITE

£525,000

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East Farleigh

- 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- POTENTIAL FOR ANNEXE
- DOUBLE GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING

£510,000

REF: Prestige_62058S



Walderslade

- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE
- QUIET GATED DEVELOPMENT

£365,000

REF: Prestige_60051S



Chatham

- 5 BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
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- 5 BED DETACHED HOUSE
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- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER

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PUBLIC NOTICE  54 Charlotte Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2JN We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £100,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.	Sittingbourne  £109,995 Two Bedroom First Floor Flat. Convenience access to town centre and mainline station. Allocated parking.	Sittingbourne  OIEO £110,000 One bed apartment. D/glazing, c/heating & accessed via a secured intercom system. Communal garden,	Murston  £114,995 Two bed end of terrace house. Lounge, dining room. C/heating, garden & allocated parking.	Sittingbourne  £140,000 End terraced house. Lounge, bedroom with en suite shower room.
Teynham  OIEO £150,000 Two bed cottage with loft room, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory & two bathrooms. Garden, garage & driveway.	Newington  £154,995 Three bedroom end of terrace house with countryside views in cul de sac location. Downstairs cloakroom.	Sittingbourne  £179,995 Stamp duty paid by vendor if asking price met. No chain. Three bedrooms house, garden & driveway.	Kemsley  £179,995 Semi-detached three bedroom house. Kitchen, lounge, dining room, en suite shower & bathroom, d/glazing.	Iwade  Guide Price £190,000 Three bed semi-detached house. Lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom, shower room & rear lobby.

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Invicta Motors are a rapidly expanding Motor dealer in Kent who currently represent the Ford, Honda and Mazda franchises across five locations. Due to a recent acquisition we are currently recruiting for the following positions within our Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells branches.

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The successful candidate must have previous car sales experience, be ambitious, self-motivated and commercially minded with an aptitude to developing the business.

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We are looking for qualified vehicle technicians to join our busy Honda and Mazda dealerships. Top rates of pay offered with excellent bonus

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Service Admin/Telephone Support at Tunbridge Wells (part time)

Hours will be 1.00-6.00 pm with an hourly rate of £7.50p

The successful candidate will be responsible for sending service/MOT reminders, making outgoing telephone calls to secure bookings and post service follow up calls.

If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com Or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors 59-61 Sturry Road Canterbury, CT1 1DR Or telephone for an application form on 01227 762 777

Please state which branch you are applying for.

Psychological Therapist

£21,519 - £27,849 pro rata, pa plus Essential Car User

Allowance of up to £1,170 pro rata, pa

Full or part time (min 23 hpw) • Evenings may be required

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You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level. Knowledge and skills in cognitive behavioural therapy, EMDR, interpersonal therapy and couple work are highly desirable and you should be eligible for either BACP/BABCP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Susan Wyles on 01233 639383 or 07725 433267.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 652.

Closing date: 7 May 2010. Interview date: 19 May 2010 in Ashford.

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Closing date for receipt of application is 12 noon Wednesday 28th April

Interviews will be held Tuesday 11th May 2010.

Further details and application pack from jireland@diocant.org or telephone 01227 459401. If you would like an informal discussion with John McParland, Principal Designate, regarding this post please call 07852 236444.

www.proposedacademyforashford.org



Exciting Roles - for those who care

At Scott Care Ltd, we offer a range of care & support services for people who live at home & need help to remain independent. We hold company inductions on a monthly basis & our next induction starts on 4th May 2010.

Now we're looking for the following to join our team:

Area Manager - Full Time, Salary & Company Vehicle. Location: Kent

You will be the nominated individual within the company, responsible for setting up new branches of our service. You will liaise with service users, care managers, contracts officers from the local authority & CQC. You will initially take on the Service Managers job description for each new branch yourself & recruit & train the new team. Candidate would ideally possess NVQ RMA Level 4 qualification or managerial background in care.

Care Workers - Full Time (mornings, evenings & alternate weekends) & Part Time (evenings or weekends) Location: Medway, Swale, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks

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Team Leaders - Full Time. Salary. Location: Medway

With a team of care workers to lead, you'll supervise, manage & monitor their progress. That means handling care assessments, reviews, spot checks & more. You will be required to take part in 'on call' responsibilities. This role could be perfect for a care worker looking to take the next step, experience is essential.



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Community Drug Worker

£21,519 - £27,849 pa • 37 hours per week • Based East & West Kent & Medway

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable. A qualification to diploma level in a relevant area - nursing, counselling or social work for example is essential. There is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Ref: 656.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.

Interview dates: 13 & 14 May 2010 in Maidstone.

Administrator - Generic Structured Psychosocial Interventions (SPI) Service

£19,126 - £23,708 pro rata, pa • 15 hours per week • Based Canterbury

As an experienced and capable Administrator you will be able to work independently and provide efficient and high quality administrative support to KCA's Generic SPI service.

Working in a demanding environment, you should have excellent typing skills and be confident in your ability to use Microsoft Office to a high standard. As the author of the Generic SPI service's quarterly newsletter, you will be required to demonstrate a commitment to keeping up-to-date with the key issues within the field whilst also using your own creativity and innovative approach to communicate the success of the service to external organisations.

The ability to collate and input data accurately onto a database whilst managing spreadsheets on Microsoft Excel is essential. You will also be able to demonstrate an accomplished style of communicating effectively with a wide cross-section of other off-site professionals in a factual and concise manner. You need to be able to prioritise your own workload and respond appropriately to referrals within the service's targeted deadlines. Ref: 650.

For further information about the post, please contact the SPI Functional Specialist Lead - Toni Howes on 01227 454740 or the Administration Functional Specialist Lead - Christine Gordon on 01795 590795 ex 2.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.

Interview date: TBC.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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For further details and an application pack, please contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or telephone on 01227 710392.

Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.



MidKent College

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009.

Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus.

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Salary: c£46k

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Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer




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Following internal promotion we require an Administration Assistant to join our Support & Guidance Team. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

For further details and an application pack, please contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392.

Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010

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CHAMPION: Sian Evans battled her way to county title

Evans wins claret jug at county championships

GOLF

FAVERSHAM Golf Club is toasting a new champion after Sian Evans returned victorious from the 2010 Kent County Ladies' Golf Association Championship.

Evans battled her way through a 33-strong field to walk away with the Maconochie-Hill claret jug and golden brooch, beating Rochester & Cobham's Jerry Lawrence in the final at Langley Park Golf Club, Beckenham.

The competition, run over three days, saw Evans tee off alongside Helen Batt (Chart Hills), carding rounds of 75 and 79

to secure her passage through the 36-hole qualifying stage.

Her total of 154 was only two shots off the day's top score, set by Lawrence, and Evans began day two seeded third of the remaining 16 golfers.

Pitted against 13th seed Pamela McGuirk (Princes), Evans won and progressed to a tougher test against Brittany Burton (Sittingbourne/Royal Cinque Ports), who ended qualifying in sixth place.

However, Burton proved no match for Evans and the Faversham player took her place in the semi-finals on the final day of action.

Her next opponent, Sophie Daws (Littlestone), had progressed through the section containing second seed Danielle Gibb but Evans' fantastic form saw her triumph and set up a final with Lawrence.

There was no stopping Evans as she returned for the afternoon's climax and Lawrence was forced to settle for the runners-up spot, with Anne Wheble (Dartford) the other defeated semi-finalist.

FOOTBALL



Picture IGOR KUPCO

SATISFIED: Faversham manager Justin Luchford

Luchford 'repaying club for the faith of giving me the job'

TRIUMPHANT Faversham Town boss Justin Luchford says his side's Kent Senior Trophy win went some way to repaying the faith the club showed by installing him as manager.

Town can follow that up by winning the Kent League and with it promotion to the Ryman League if they get at least a point against Corinthian at Salters Lane tonight, which for Luchford and Faversham, would mark a huge turnaround in fortunes.

After joining the club along with co-manager Jimmy Strouts in November 2007 with the side bottom of the league and shipping goals left right and centre, Luchford led the club to a comfortable mid-table finish at the end of his first season.

Strouts departed at the beginning of last season, leaving Luchford in sole charge and again Town did well, which included having a chance of winning the title up until the final weekend of the campaign.

This season his side have led the Kent League from the start and have picked up their first piece of silverware in 20 years with the Kent Senior Trophy win.

Luchford said: "It was brilliant. I played for years as a player and you don't get many trophies but this probably means more than all of them."

"It's repaying [the club] for the faith of giving me the job. It was always a big decision giving me the job because there was no doubt Jimmy had a big part to play in that. I'm still learning as a manager, but there's no doubt I will be savouring this."

"I'm delighted for the lads and they deserve that and a little bit more, but we'll keep that on ice for a bit longer."

Town take on Corinthian tonight with a chance of wrapping up the title. For a report and reaction, visit www.yourswale.co.uk.



CELEBRATION: Faversham Town players and coaching staff after winning the club's first trophy since 1990 – they now need one point from their last two league games to clinch the double

Twenty years of hurt over at last for Town

FAVERSHAM Town picked up their first piece of silverware in 20 years after winning the Kent Senior Trophy in a gripping final against a plucky Greenwich Borough side.

The Lilywhites claimed the first trophy of the Kent League season at Welling's Park View Road on Sunday, and will hope to add to that with promotion to the Ryman League this evening.

Town need a solitary point from their remaining two games – starting with Corinthian tonight – to claim the Kent League title.

On Sunday, Faversham got off to the worse possible start when they allowed Michael Jones to steal in at the back post and loop a header over Rob French in the Faversham goal, to take a sixth-minute lead.

Volley

The Kent League leaders hit back and had chances to equalise through Damian Abel and Dave Soutan, while skipper Tom Hickman smashed over in the 24th minute after being put through on goal by Dave Botterill.

Lilywhites' fans, who made up the majority of 380-strong crowd, didn't have to wait long to see their side pull level. Two minutes later, a Dale Skelton corner was headed out to Botterill on the edge of the box and the Town winger lashed a left-foot volley past goalkeeper Danny Firkins.

Soutan saw another header drift just wide of the Borough goal on 42 minutes, while a

KENT SENIOR TROPHY FINAL

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Faversham Town 2

Botterill 26, Smissen 55

Faversham Town - how they rated



Subs used: Sinden (Smissen 68), Luchford (Abel 80)

minute later Skelton lashed high and wide with his left foot after finding himself in space in the Greenwich area.

Borough, for all their good play and possession, lacked a cutting edge and were forced to defend for long spells at the beginning of the second-half. A Shane Hamshare cross on 51 minutes was headed just wide of the post by Borough's Frankie Warren, before Town scored what proved to be the winning goal four minutes later.

Michael Smissen, who was about to be hauled off by manager Justin Luchford after having a quiet game, robbed a Greenwich defender on the right before racing into the area. His cross-come-shot somehow eluded Firkins and dribbled into the bottom corner to give Town the lead.

Greenwich thought they had a claim for a penalty when Richard Monan looked to have been tripped by Dan Larkin, only for the referee to issue a yellow card to the Borough forward for diving.

Faversham had chances to make the game safe but substitute Richard Sinden hit one effort wide after running through on goal on 72 minutes, and a minute later a Sinden cross to the back post found an unmarked Abel, whose outstretched boot couldn't connect with the ball.

The introduction of Joe Jackson gave Greenwich some added impetus and he went agonisingly close to drawing his side level twice in the space of two minutes.

Firstly French superbly tipped over a curling left-footed effort that was destined for the top corner, then from the resulting corner, the ball found its way out to Jackson, who let fly with a rasping effort that again found French in top form.

Borough's Jones was sent off two minutes into stoppage time for two clashes with Shane Hamshare, allowing Faversham to run down the clock and claim their first trophy since winning the Kent League title in 1990.

Play-off hopes over as Bourne labour to draw

FOOTBALL

■ BY PETER PITTS

Walton Casuals 1

Maan 38



Sittingbourne 1

Marshall 16



PLAYING their fifth game in eight days, Sittingbourne turned in an understandably below-par display at relegation-threatened Walton Casuals on Saturday.

The Brickies did at least end their four-game losing streak but their season is petering out with the play-offs once again a bridge too far for Gary Abbott's side.

The final relegation place is now between Casuals and Sittingbourne's Kent rivals Ashford Town, who were beaten 6-2 at Fleet Town.

Walton's Steffan Gaisie had a shot on three minutes that flew across the Brickies goal and wide, but Sittingbourne got into their stride and Matt Bourne's header was chested off the line by Mu Maan.

Sittingbourne took a 16th-minute lead when Steven Marshall scored his first goal for the club, crashing home a shot from 12 yards after Nick Reeves had flicked the ball beyond Tom Bradbrook and a host of Casuals defenders.



CHANCES: Hicham Akhazzan failed to make his goal-scoring opportunities count as Sittingbourne laboured to a draw

The hosts drew level on 38 minutes, though, when a deep cross was sent back across goal and Maan was on hand to hit it first time into the net.

With their Ryman League survival on the line, Casuals went all-out for a winner in the second-half but Maan's shot, which floated off target, was the closest they came.

Sittingbourne seemed content to soak up the pressure in their own half but the best chance of the half fell to Hicham Akhazzan, who saw Ramos out of his goal and sent a lob narrowly over from just inside the Casuals half.

Sittingbourne starting XI



Subs used: Manners (Bottle 24), Horlock (Golding 55), Nuttall (Bradbrook 69)

The Brickies will sign off their league season at home as Merstham visit Bourne Park on Saturday, but they must first travel to promotion hopefuls Burgess Hill Town tomorrow (Thursday).

Gary Abbott's side were also in action last night (Tuesday) as they took on a Godalming Town side already assured of their place in the play-offs. Log on to www.yoursawale.co.uk for match details.

The club are offering companies the chance to enter a draw to become their main sponsor for the 2010/11 season at a cost of £1,000 plus VAT. The package includes shirt sponsorship, a 16x3' advertisement board, a full-page advert in the matchday programme, entry to all home league games with seats in the stand and boardroom hospitality for up to six people.

Unsuccessful companies will receive an 8x3' board, quarter-page programme advertisement and access to two home league games with boardroom hospitality for up to four people. All interested parties should contact bournefc@hotmail.com.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Croydon Athletic	40	26	7	7	+51	85
2 Folkestone Invicta (-10)	40	28	7	5	+32	81
3 Worthing	40	23	5	12	+27	74
4 Godalming Town (-3)	39	24	5	10	+26	74
5 Leatherhead	40	21	7	12	+31	70
6 Fleet Town	40	21	6	13	+23	69
7 Burgess Hill Town	39	18	10	11	+16	64
8 Walton & Hersham	41	18	8	15	+3	62
9 Metropolitan Police	41	17	9	15	+10	60
10 Sittingbourne	39	17	7	15	+16	58
11 Horsham YMCA	41	14	14	13	+2	56
12 Ramsgate	41	13	14	14	-4	53
13 Whyteleafe	41	15	6	20	0	51
14 Dulwich Hamlet	41	13	12	16	-9	51
15 Corinthian-Casuals	40	16	3	21	-12	51
16 Merstham	41	12	12	17	-16	48
17 Chatham Town	41	14	4	23	-19	46
18 Chipstead	41	10	10	21	-22	40
19 Whitstable Town	40	12	3	25	-46	39
20 Ashford Town	40	8	11	21	-40	35
21 Walton Casuals	41	8	9	24	-25	33
R Eastbourne Town	41	6	11	24	-44	29

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Faversham Town	28	22	2	4	+47	68
2 Herne Bay	28	20	2	6	+34	62
3 Beckenham Town	28	16	5	7	+22	53
4 Hythe Town	27	12	8	7	+28	44
5 Greenwich Borough	28	12	8	8	+9	44
6 Sevenoaks Town	28	14	4	10	+6	43
7 Erith Town	28	11	7	10	+7	40
8 Deal Town	28	11	6	11	-6	39
9 Tunbridge Wells	29	10	8	11	0	38
10 Norton Sports	28	10	6	12	-5	36
11 Erith & Belvedere	28	9	6	13	-16	33
12 Fisher	28	9	5	14	-15	32
13 Holmesdale	28	9	3	16	-5	30
14 Corinthian	28	8	3	17	-28	27
15 Sporting Bengal United	29	7	4	18	-50	25
16 Lordswood	29	3	9	17	-28	18

FIXTURES (Wednesday) Kent League Premier Division - **Faversham**

Town v Corinthian

(Thursday) Ryman Division One South - Burgess Hill Town v **Sittingbourne**

(Saturday) Ryman Division One South - **Sittingbourne** v Merstham

Kent League Premier Division - **Norton Sports** v Faversham Town

FOOTBALL



Picture NICK DINGAN

FINE HEADER: Harry Goodger scored Norton's second

Fourth away win in a row for road warriors Norton

Erith & Belvedere 1 Norton Sports 3

NORTON Sports welcome local rivals Faversham Town to Winch's Field on Saturday having wrapped up their away fixture programme with a fourth straight win on the road.

Ben Taylor's side returned from Erith & Belvedere with all three points on Saturday, having led 1-0 at the break before adding two late goals in an impressive performance.

Tony Clark, Andy Irvine and Ashley Baverstock all had good opportunities inside the first 15 minutes but as the half progressed and Norton failed to score, the Ders took some heart and came into the game.

They missed a good headed opportunity from a free-kick before Norton goalkeeper Paul West pulled off a fine save as the half drew to a close.

Effort

Within three minutes of the restart Norton took the lead when Clark fed Baverstock on the edge of the box and he got his shot away at the second attempt, curling a low effort into the corner.

The second-half started where the first had ended, with Baverstock crashing a great shot against the bar and Irvine then drawing a great save from the home keeper.

With 20 minutes remaining, Clark's snapped volley was well-saved before Harry Goodger joined the fray and Irvine then went close again with a back-post header.

Norton finally got their second on 80 minutes when Baverstock's cross from the left was headed home powerfully by Goodger and Clark then wrapped the game up four minutes from time with a great 30-yard contender for goal of the season.

Erith grabbed a consolation in stoppage-time with Casey Scotter's weak header from a corner somehow found its way beyond West and into the net.

Norton were in action last night (Tuesday) as they entertained Sevenoaks Town at Winch's Field. Log on to www.yoursawale.co.uk for match details.



Picture GOROKOPO

STRAIN: Gary Abbott says Sittingbourne dropped too many points against teams lower in the league

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